

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 16

Greensburg, Indiana

December 1, 1962

EARLY BIRDS

Why not be prepared to renew your membership at the dinner meeting, for the coming year and thus qualify as an EARLY BIRD? Your card will be waiting for you.

And as a suggestion - a dollar membership for an interested friend, makes an excellent Christmas gift.

COMMITTEES

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Audit

Miss Kathryn Taney, ch.  
Mrs. Bertha Alexander

Nominations

Mr. Homer G. Meek, ch.  
Mrs. Gertrude Day  
Miss Martha Samuels

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME FOR DINNER, FEEL FREE TO ATTEND THE MEETING LATER. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

OCCASION: Fourth Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers.

SPEAKER: Mr. Virgil E. Davis

DATE: Saturday, December 15, 1962, 6:30 P. M. Fast Time

PLACE: Presbyterian Church, N. E. corner Public Square, Greensburg, Indiana. Entrance on Washington Street.

DINNER RESERVATIONS

Please cooperate by using the reservation blank to be found elsewhere in this issue of the BULLETIN.

Mail reservations to be received not later than Wednesday, December 12th.

Dinner tickets are \$1.50 each. For further information call either of the following:

Mrs. Paul H. Huber 663-6866  
Miss Helen K. Bussell 663-3134

Virgil E. Davis, the author of "THROUGH OUR YEARS--The Story of Brookville," a past president of the Franklin County Historical Society and an instructor in the Brookville High School, comes to us very well recommended as our speaker for the evening. Franklin County first settled in 1803 some sixteen years before our own, is eminent among the early counties organized in the state for having produced more than its quota of famous men--leaders both on state and national levels. Mr. Davis will discuss the lives and influence of these men particularly as they concern Decatur County, along with the part that the Brookville Land Office played in our development.



The following members have qualified as EARLY BIRDS and are in good standing for 1963.

Bailey, Mr. I. R.  
 Bailey, Mrs. I. R.  
 Ball, Mr. Collins  
 Ball, Mrs. Collins  
 Ball, Mrs. Pauline  
 Ball, Mr. Winston  
 Barnette, Mrs. Elizabeth  
 Batterton, Mrs. D. A.  
 Batterton, Mrs. Floy  
 Borchers, Mrs. Marie  
 Craig, Mr. Edgar  
 Day, Mrs. Gertrude  
 Day, Mr. Thomas H.  
 Easley, Mrs. Walter  
 Eckel, Mrs. Florine S.  
 Emmert, Miss Mary K.  
 Fulton, Mr. Ray  
 Garner, Mr. Loren  
 Garner, Mrs. Loren  
 Guilkey, Mr. Frank  
 Guilkey, Mrs. Loretta  
 Hall, Mr. Robert D.  
 Hamilton, Mr. Paul  
 Hogue, Mrs. J. David  
 Holcomb, Lt. Col. Wm. L.  
 House, Mr. Harry  
 House, Mrs. Harry  
 Huber, Miss Julia

Jackson, Mr. Elias  
 Jackson, Mrs. Elias  
 Keen, Mr. Charles M.  
 Keen, Mrs. Charles M.  
 Lanham, Mrs. Ethel E.  
 Loper, Mrs. Adaline  
 Lowe, Mr. Marsh  
 Marlin, Mr. Charles F.  
 Marlin, Mrs. Helen B.  
 Martin, Mr. Willard  
 Martin, Mrs. Willard  
 Meek, Mr. Homer G.  
 Meek, Mrs. Homer G.  
 Meek, Mr. Robert L., Sr.  
 Meyer, Mrs. Jean Perry  
 Morrish, Mrs. Mary R.  
 McDermitt, Mrs. S. H.  
 Osburn, Mr. Charles  
 Osburn, Mrs. Charles  
 Parker, Mr. John E.  
 Parker, Mr. William W.  
 Peek, Mrs. V. T.  
 Smirnoff, Mrs. Margaret M.  
 Smith, Mrs. Jessie  
 Tillson, Miss Florine  
 Tillson, Miss Marguerite  
 Williams, Mrs. Shirley A.  
 Wyant, Mrs. Margaret

#### NEW MEMBERS

Lt. Col. William L. Holcomb  
 Alexandria, Virginia  
 Mrs. H. S. McDermitt  
 Mr. Marsh Lowe  
 West Lafayette, Indiana  
 Mr. Harry House  
 Mrs. Harry House  
 Mr. Charles M. Keen  
 Knightstown, Indiana  
 Mrs. Charles M. Keen  
 Knightstown, Indiana

#### THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1962

President-----Paul H. Huber  
 1st. Vice-President----Walter B. Lowe  
 2nd. Vice-President-Mrs. Dorothy Doles  
 Corresponding Secy.--Mrs. Chas. Loucks  
 131 W. Central Ave.  
 Greensburg, Indiana  
 Recording Secy.--Miss Helen K. Bussell  
 711 N. East St.  
 Greensburg, Indiana  
 Treasurer-----William Parker



The Anti-slavery Movement in the Kingston (Ind.) Presbyterian Church  
by  
Mary Rankin

February 1928

As a background for this paper it is necessary to give a brief history of the organization of the Kingston Presbyterian Church. Of official records of the Kingston Church in its early years we have only the first session book covering the years from December 1823 to 1837. The records show a service to have been held in December 1823 at the home of Samuel D. Henry on the farm now known as that of Miss Jennie Throp. Rev. John Moreland, a minister well known in Kentucky, preached to the families of the community and those present who were Presbyterians before coming to Indiana associated themselves to form the Concord - later the Sand Creek, Presbyterian Church, and chose Samuel Donnell, John Hopkins, John C. McCoy and William O. Ross as elders. In September, 1824, Father Dickey, beloved pioneer preacher of Kentucky and south-western Indiana, visited the congregation for two days and officially received the church into Presbytery (probably Madison). Those meetings were held in the home of Cyrus Hamilton, a house that stood a few rods west of the barn on the farm where T. M. Hamilton now lives. Again, nearly a year later, Father Dickey held meetings at Cyrus Hamilton's home. This does not mean that no meetings were held in the meantime, for prayer meetings and instruction of children in the Bible and doctrine were conducted every Sunday in the homes of the elders.

The first minister, Rev. S. G. Lowry, began his work in June of 1826 and the first log meeting-house was erected. It was at this time also that twelve members withdrew to form with others the Presbyterian church of Greensburg. These were the families of Hendricks, Gageby, Ross and John Hopkins.

The first log church was erected in the cemetery ground opposite the present building. It is described as being built of "poplar logs" nicely hewn and with chinks well and neatly pointed. The next building was of brick, built in 1836, a little to the north and farther from the road. The New School church erected a building of logs in 1840 on the site of the present school building and after twelve years this became the school building. The New school or Free Church then built in 1854 a frame church on the lot opposite the manse. This served the congregation till the present building was erected in 1882. and was burned in 1892 after serving as a social hall for ten years. The bricks from the old building which stood in the cemetery now form the front part of the manse as it stands today.

The following paper was written at the request of Rev. Lucian V. Rule and is to be incorporated in a volume with other histories of anti-slavery churches.

The early history of the Kingston church is inseparable from the anti-slavery and temperance movements, and its survival to celebrate its centennial is an indication of the stuff of which its founders were made. The majority of the families that composed its first prayer meetings had belonged to the Concord church near Carlisle, Kentucky, and remained steadfast in Presbyterian faith and doctrine when that church was torn asunder during the pastorate of Barton Stone.



Though they had lost their church buildings, they called to their pastorate in 1819, the young Rev. John Rankin, who with his wife and child, was traveling northward from Tennessee toward free country. There was already an abolition society among them and Mr. Rankin continued to confirm them in that faith as well as to combat the teachings of Dr. Stone with reiteration of Presbyterian doctrine. Slavery became so distasteful to these people that family after family left between the years 1821 and 1823, till the Concord church grew too small to support a pastor, and the colony in Indiana, with pioneers from Pennsylvania, grew large enough to form a church. The Rev. John Rankin went to the church at Ripley, Ohio, and continued his anti-slavery and temperance work there. He kept in touch with his friends in Indiana, and after his fellow-workers in Kentucky, the Rev. John R. Moreland, organized the Sand Creek Church in 1823, Mr. Rankin sent his brother-in-law, Samuel Lowry, to be its first pastor in 1826 and his brother, Alexander Rankin to hold a "camp meeting." He, himself, held a "camp meeting" in the neighborhood in 1850 or 1851. In 1860 he asked the church to consider his son, Rev. Arthur Tappan Rankin, for their pastor and thus began Dr. Rankin's long pastorate of thirty years. During this time the father was often an honored guest in his son's pulpit, and among Mr. Rankin's publications was the life of Samuel Donnell, the senior elder of the early Sand Creek Church.

Had all the members of this little church been under this influence, or had all been true to the teachings they had received in the old church in Kentucky, or had all the ministers been whole-heartedly on the side of the abolition of human slavery and liquor, its history would have been very different. As early as 1832 opposition to the anti-slavery groups was felt, and Mr. Lowry resigned, to be followed by one who "connived with the more active to wrest the church from the hands of the abolitionists." The result was finally the withdrawal of a minority from membership and the formation of a new church, March 4, 1837.

"The undersigned members of Sand Creek church, believe that in the providence of God we are placed in circumstances that we must either relinquish certain principles or retain an unequal standing among our brethren. After careful and mature consideration of the circumstances under which we are placed by the action of those with whom we are associated and from whom we have no desire to be separated, could we fraternize without being placed under disabilities in forwarding and promoting a cause which we believe justice requires at our hands under a sense of the duties we owe to God, our children and our fellow men, we have come to the conclusion that it is our duty to separate ourselves from our present connection and to associate and constitute ourselves into an independent church, to be known by the name of the Independent Congregational Church of Sand Creek." But its articles of faith read like those of any Presbyterian church, and the members even elected ruling elders who performed the usual duties pertaining to the office. The two congregations built and used the same church for a time, but when the building was fully paid for it was decided by arbitration that it belonged to the older body, and the new congregation had to use the school house for its services.

When General Assembly divided into the two bodies now known as Old School and New School in 1837, and it was thought that the New School would be anti-slavery, the new groups joined that organization and



shared pastors with the New School church in Greensburg. During this time a small church building was erected. By 1850 the church "was becoming restless and impatient because, in spite of years of labor and remonstrance, slavery seemed to be intrenching itself more and more firmly in the New School church." During the pastorate of the Rev. Benjamine Nyce, the decision was made to withdraw from the New School and unite with the Felicity (Ohio) Presbytery of the Free Presbyterian church. This was a Presbytery that their Kentucky pastor, Mr. Rankin, had helped to form, and he came that year to hold a series of meetings which helped to fortify the members in their faith.

The Old School church with its larger membership and more permanent denominational connections, flourished until the late fifties when removals weakened it. It was one of the pastors of this church, the Rev. John C. King, who gave his name to the village and church. When, in 1861 the Rev. Arthur Tappan Rankin, was called to the pastorate of the Free church, the remaining members of the older church were ready to be re-united in one community church and faced together the years of the war and the reconstruction of churches as well as states. One writer says of Dr. Rankin, "his ancestry, his early training, as well as his own personality, made him peculiarly acceptable to the Kingston people," and during the thirty years of his pastorate the church made its greatest growth.

In March 1864 it was received again into the Indianapolis Presbytery of the New School church.

Miss Camilla Donnell, speaking of the Free Presbyterian church in her history of the Kingston church says - "We cannot resist the conviction that this worthy body of reformers contained a good many cranks, and Kingston probably had its full share, both of preachers and members. But our fathers were happily unconscious of the word. They went on their way quite regardless of the ridicule or prejudice of the outside world, with temperance and abolition written on their door-posts, reading and circulating abolition books and papers, attending distant anti-slavery conventions, running with great success their branch of the underground railroad, voting the most extreme reform tickets and doing their humble best to turn the world upside-down. Like all reformers, their zeal was not always according to discretion, but they left behind them a glorious record, the precious heritage of their children's children, down to the present generation."

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#### THIS AND THAT

COL. HOWARD H. BATES - We regret to announce - this on the eve of our annual dinner meeting - that Col. Howard H. Bates, our speaker on these last two occasions, died suddenly July 23rd in Denver, Colorado, while on a business trip. An outstanding public speaker, he was very much in demand, particularly before historical groups. He was the unanimous favorite of this Society. A great voice has been stilled.

TILGER - Justine Tharp Tilger, an assistant editor of INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY, is a native of Decatur County and a graduate of St. Paul High School. She succeeds Mary Lou Thielking of Batesville, who likewise is related in this county.



DECATUR COUNTY - Thomas Daniel Martin born at Galetton, Ky. in 1825 was one of ten brothers to serve in the Civil War. The other nine were born in Decatur County. Mary Martin Coombs, a member living in Michigantown, Indiana is a daughter of Thomas Daniel Martin.

MEMBERSHIP - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

ROBERT J. McCracken - "The greatest danger that faces this country is the danger of moral lassitude - liberty turned to license, rights demanded and duties shirked, the moral sense deteriorating, the traditions and standards of the nation weakened, the spiritual forces within it losing ground."

ADAMS TOWNSHIP - It has been stated that flat-boats bound for the New Orleans trade took off from Downeyville in the early days. Can this be further documented?

FIRST THINGS FIRST - Please send me by the Rock Creek stage, 100 pounds salt, 1/2 barrel brown sugar; 100 45-calibre Winchester cartridges, 10 gallons best sour mash whiskey--like the first sent. Also send me two woolen undershirts for a lady quite thick, two hoopskirts for a lady of some en bon point, and a corset for a girl of 15.

P. S. Send 50 pounds of coffee, a few late copies of the Weekly Boomerang, a copy of the New Testament and Psalms bound together, large print, and be very particular about the quality of the sour mash whiskey.

(A letter from a Wyoming ranchman of the 80's to his merchant in town, from the Laramie Daily Boomerang, February 12, 1884) (Contributed by Helena Huntington Smith) - AMERICAN HERITAGE.

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#### HISTORY VIA GLASSWARE

In America, glass making from the beginning has been closely tied in with our development as a nation. People who collect it seriously may find themselves concerned with the Indian trade at the Jamestown Settlement, or with Zachary Taylor's Mexican campaign.

The Pioneer glassmakers started to make glass almost as soon as their first shelters were up. As far as we know, they were making beads for the Indian trade at Jamestown in 1608, but none of this earliest American glass is around today.

The first glassmakers in this country whose names are familiar to collectors -- Casper Wistor, Henry William Stiegel, and John Frederick Amelung -- made chiefly bottle and window glass. Records show that in 1739 Wistor started a factory in southwestern New Jersey and produced nothing else commercially.

Many of these bottles and historic flasks were made to hold whiskey or some other alcoholic beverage. You can learn to date wine bottles by



their shape (the squat Wistorberg specimen is a hundred years older than the Mt. Vernon bottle), and patent-medicine bottles by looking up in old city directories the proprietors whose names appear on them. Some paper labels add to the fun.

The Historical flasks vary in rarity according to the way they combine size, color and motif, but even the commonest are fascinating. You can collect, just for amusement, such pious injunctions as "Use me but do not abuse me," or the simple label "Traveler's Companion," but if you have anything more to do with this group you can't help learning a good deal of American history. You will find, for instance, that the Captain Bragg flask refers to an incident in Zachary Taylor's Mexican War campaign; that Major Ringold was another hero of that War; that the phoenix on the Resurgan flask is a symbol of Baltimore's rebirth after the fire of 1850. Flasks come in conventional designs as well as historical. They were blown in full-size molds, mostly from 1820 to 1870. Some dear to the heart of collectors are the Captain Bragg, Wm. H. Harrison, the Unions, Baltimore's Monument, Masonic, Washington, Railroad, Major Ringold, Franklin, LaFayette, Pike's Peak, DeWitt Clinton, and Taylor campaign.

Much early American glassware is rare and expensive, but bottles of one kind or another, can be collected by anyone with a lively curiosity and a willingness to learn. They come in all price ranges; old "nostrum" bottles even turn up in junk heaps.

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#### HOME TOWN

(Poem by Roll B. Littell, navigation instructor at Washington University, Seattle, Washington)

Sitting here as the sun goes down,  
I'm lonely tonight for a little town.  
For an humble home far away.  
And on the corner wish to play,  
And know the pleasure and the joy,  
The carefree fun of a barefoot boy.

I see the courthouse standing there  
Imprisoned in the public square,  
Its iron fence and chain hitchrack,  
And the old interurban track.  
The wat'ring trough, the old band stand,  
And hear the silver cornet band.

I see trees growing on the tower,  
And hear the town clock strike the hour.  
Softly the chimes of first church ring  
And birds in trees and belfries sing.  
Turtle doves coo in maple trees,  
And larks trill in the tree top breeze.



I hear again the "east end" bell  
And children come from town and dell,  
The girls with "pig tails" down their back,  
And boys with marbles in a sack.  
Boys to the east and girls to the west,  
Don't cross the line in play or jest.

At the track in the old fair ground  
Are horses going 'round and 'round.  
Driving them are "Bill," George and "Buck," (*Dickerson*)  
And watching there are Lottie and "Duck."  
They could trot and pace in those days.  
There were blacks, "duns," sorrels and grays.

I see beside old "Gas" creek's bank,  
The woolen mill, the big gas tank.  
The foot ball field by Goddard's barn,  
The old bridge and the crawfish cairn,  
The reservoir beside the mill,  
And Zoller's mansion on the hill.  
The rolling clouds I see once more  
And hear again the thunder roar,  
The lightning's flash, the ravens cry,  
Myriads of blackbirds in the sky.  
I see old Sand creek and the fall,  
And hear once more the cat bird's call.

I pick the paw-paw from the tree,  
And crack the nut of the hickory.  
My hands are brown with walnut stain,  
In old "Long Hole" I swim again,  
I see the iron weed growing rank  
And pluck wild violets on the bank.

My dream is done, I'm back once more,  
Out by the sea, out on the shore,  
Out where the mountains meet the sky.  
My dream is done and yet I sigh,  
Again to be a barefoot boy  
And know again my boyhood joy.

And this I know; There ne'er shall be  
No town on earth so dear to me,  
No place, no cline, no sky so blue,  
No sun so bright, no friends so true,  
No ones so loved as those back home,  
To whom I send this little poem.

ed.--Rolland B. Littell was born in Greensburg  
and left when 14 years of age. His parents  
were Alanson and Ellen Dryden Littell.



Dear Reader:

Again, your Cousin Book-Worm recommends for your reading pleasure, a book by Ishbel Ross - her newest one - Grace Coolidge and her Era.

After graduating from the University of Vermont, she became a teacher in the Clark Institute for the Deaf in Northampton. Calvin Coolidge, a rising young lawyer, boarded in a house near the Institute, and his landlord introduced these two young people, remarking that "having taught the deaf to hear, Miss Goodhue might perhaps cause the mute to speak." Opposites in disposition, they were immediately attracted to each other. Years later, in his autobiography, the President wrote: "for almost a quarter of a century she has borne with my infirmities and I have rejoiced in her graces."

This book is the story of the lives of these two, and the story of the era in which they lived -- very good reading -- about people, events, fashions, etc. of some not-so-long-ago yester-years. You will ask for it the next time you are in our Library, won't you? And then, when you recommend it to your friends, maybe you'll hear a faint "I'm so glad that you enjoyed it too" - and that could be the voice of your

Cousin Book-Worm.

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#### THE LAST MEETING

The October field tour of our County Seat included as much as time and traffic would permit.

Mrs. Helen Osburn opened the tour at the Thomas Hendricks marker, at the East entrance to the Court House. She covered interesting history and styles of architecture plus human interest stories of the square and the original plat.

Mrs. Mary Morrish viewed the surrounding landmarks of the once fashionable Old Town from the home of Mrs. Kay Ewing, located at Broadway and McKee Streets. She included those passed from the square to this point and those to be noted after leaving the Ewing home enroute to the next stop.

From the Mrs. Floyd Barnes home (Lincoln and Main), Mrs. Adeline Loper, pointed out the industrial and business sites of the horse and buggy and stagecoach days of early Greensburg. She also previewed the standing landmarks of East Main to Wilder Street, on the way to a parallel viewing of East Washington Street landmarks returning back to the square.

For the social period the group reassembled at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Shannon on North Franklin Street. This was the first approach to viewing the pretentious homes, of what could be called the age of elegance in the city's history. This was given by Mr. Shannon. Along with the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Shannon, their heirloom furnished home was also enjoyed.

Since other scattered landmarks had to be omitted, we would like to call attention to a few of them. Several of those have been



authentically restored. Among them are original farm homes of what was then being platted for a future suburban Greensburg.

At the end of North Franklin Street is the retirement home of Luther A. Donnell of Underground Railway fame. It is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Sam McDermitt. It is very nearly perfect as it has always been lived in by appreciative owners.

On North Broadway the home of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bonner was the farm home of Mr. Henry Doles. Both its interior and exterior has been perfectly restored by the Bonners.

On North Michigan Avenue is the restored home of the first Wm. S. Woodfill. It is the home of Dr. Trevor and Mrs. Morrison. The latter is a great granddaughter of the original owner.

Directly across the street is the Rev. Winchester Home. The last owner was Mr. Oscar Miller. This home is being kept for the retirement living of the three Miller daughters.

We left the Square and the Old Town with a feeling of sadness and disappointment, knowing that many of these beautiful landmarks were on the very eve of local demolition. This to give way to the contemporary influence of Frank Lloyd Wright and his cubical dreams. Then beginning with the beautifully restored homes in the northern and eastern parts of the city, our spirits were lifted. Only time will tell whether we were right or wrong.

--A SUBSCRIBER

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#### EXHIBITION

#### SARDINIA SCHOOL

Monday Eve., Feb. 17, '68

#### PROGRAMME

Music by the Sardinia Cornet Band  
Song--"Then we'll be Glad," by the Juveniles

#### Advertising for a Servant

Mr. Marshall . . . . .	J. S. Booth
Mrs. Marshall . . . . .	Miss Fannie Stout
Margaret O'Flannagan. . . . .	Miss Ella Booth
Katrina . . . . .	Miss Druzilla Smith
Snowdrop Washington . . . . .	Miss Lizzie Small

#### DECLAMATION

"The Fly" . . . . . Master Willie Byous  
DIALOGUE. . . . . by the Juveniles

#### The Three Guesses

KING NUMBSKULL. . . . .	Thomas Shera
PRINCE STUPIDON . . . . .	W. M. Risley
Princess Musulla. . . . .	Miss Fannie Ricketts



) Kittie Wiseman, Mattie Shera,  
FAIRIES) Lucy Hawkins, Amanda Risley,  
) and Louie Moncrief

SONG . . . . . "The Fairies"

DECLAMATION--

"Not so Easy," . . . . . Master Willie Smith

#### The Dosem Family

Mr. Brown. . . . . Errons Booth  
Mrs. Brown . . . . . Miss Mattie Risley  
Mrs. Dosem . . . . . Miss Lizzie Small  
Priscilla. . . . . Miss Mattie Moore  
Ruth . . . . . Miss Annie Reiley  
Abigail. . . . . Miss Mary Moore  
Rebecca Aquilla. . . . . Miss Kittie Wiseman  
PETER. . . . . M. W. Moore  
ADAM . . . . . Henry Jones  
JAMES. . . . . James Gaston

#### Concert Recitation, "American Flag."

TABLEAU. . . . . Mary, Queen of Scots  
Song, "The blind Girl," Miss Louie Moncrief

#### Matrimony

Mrs. Hamilton. . . . . Miss E. E. McKeehan  
Arabella . . . . . Miss Ella Booth  
Ellen. . . . . Miss Amanda Smith  
Katy . . . . . Miss Fannie Ricketts  
Count De Vauxien . . . . . B. F. Gaston  
Dennis . . . . . J. B. Plymate  
Charles Harper . . . . . E. S. Holliday

SONG . . . . . "Foot Traveler"  
Concert Recitation . . . . . by the Juveniles  
Declamation, "Flowers" . . Miss Lou Moncrief  
TABLEAU. . . . . The Seasons

#### Matrimonial Advertisement

Aunt Martha Gordon . . . . . Miss M. Booth  
Grand Mother Cole. . . . . Miss Kate Smith  
Mary Cole. . . . . Miss Erma Clendenning  
Jack Cole. . . . . John Thompson  
Cyrus Gordon . . . . . W. M. Risley  
DECLAMATION--"Will the New Year come to-  
night, Mamma?" . Miss Isa Shera  
SONG . . . . . "Shout for our Banner"

#### Dr. Hawley

Dr. Hawley. . . . . John Gentry  
Mrs. Hawley. . . . . Miss Druzilla Smith  
Hattie Hawley. . . . . Miss Fannie Stout  
Delia Dayton . . . . . Miss Mattie Moore  
Zedekiah Hull. . . . . J. B. Plymate  
Charles. . . . . E. S. Holliday



WITH THOREAU (HENDERSON) AT CONCORD BRIDGE,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 1961

By Grant Henderson

Upon the bridge step lightly, son,  
Arouse no echo there  
Until a moment passes, one  
As deathless as a prayer.  
So let us gratefully embrace  
This golden moment. When  
We walk together from this place  
We may not come again.  
But in the years ahead we'll know  
(And this is prophecy,  
God grant us) how to face the foe,  
Whoever he may be,  
With fortitude. Remember this:  
Brave men fell where we trod,  
Insuring us this day of bliss,  
Our Country, and our God.  
Then, O! my son, let no man claim  
That you and I today  
Misunderstand. We're not the same  
Two men who walked away  
From Walden Pond an hour ago  
To visit Concord Bridge.  
What tugs upon our heartstrings so?  
Do Redcoats walk the ridge?



IMPORTANT!

DINNER RESERVATIONS!

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs. Dorothy Huber  
323 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Indiana

Dear Mrs. Huber:

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_  
reservations at \$1.50 each for the annual 1962 dinner meeting of the  
DECATUR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to DOROTHY HUBER, CHAIRMAN  
Your dinner tickets will be waiting for you at the door.

MAIL RESERVATIONS EARLY- TO BE RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 12th.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 21

Greensburg, Indiana

August 8, 1964

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. John R. Meyer- Milwaukee  
Mr. R. Sherman Boyl- Indpls.  
Miss Ruth Moulton- Union City  
Mr. Raymond Carr (463)

\* \* \* \* \*

PARKER'S POND

Again our hosts are the William Parkers. Their home is located approximately eight miles Southwest of Greensburg in Clay township.

ROUTE FROM GREENSBURG

Follow SR 3 and 46 to the Junction West of Greensburg. Here turn left or South on SR 3. Continue South on SR 3 to the second cross road. (Look for the sign here). Turn right or West on a stone road. LOOK FOR THE FLAG POLE ON THE RIGHT AT APPROX. ONE-QUARTER MILE.

ROUTE FROM WESTPORT

Follow Sr 3 North toward Greensburg. After passing the yellow flasher at Letts, turn left or West at the second cross road. (Look for the sign here). Turn left or West on a stone road. LOOK FOR THE FLAG POLE ON THE RIGHT AT APPROX. ONE-QUARTER MILE.

PICNIC AFTERWARD

MR. AND MRS. PARKER HEREBY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO ANY OF THE MEMBERS OR THEIR GUESTS TO BRING THEIR PICNIC BASKETS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO. TABLES WILL BE PROVIDED.

OCCASION: Summer Meeting

SPEAKER: Mrs. E. A. Porter

DATE: Sunday evening, August 23,  
1964. 4:00 P.M. FAST TIME

PLACE: Parker's Pond

Mrs. Porter, a devoted member of the Society, will speak on one of her favorite subjects- CEMETERIES. Hers is a cause to which she is very much dedicated. Mrs. Porter abhors the neglect and vandalism that occurs daily in some of our cemeteries, and is quite eloquent in saying so. She will have a message that will appeal to our good members- our only regret being that those who should be there will not be numbered among those present.

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

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SUGGESTION

IF SO INCLINED, WHY NOT VISIT THE DECATUR COUNTY RAILWAY MUSEUM AT WESTPORT BEFORE ATTENDING THE AFFAIR AT PARKER'S POND? YOU WILL ENJOY THEIR RIDE AND DISPLAY.



## MT. ETNA SCHOOL HISTORY

This is an attempt at compiling a brief historical sketch of the Mt. Etna school, which was located in the southeast part of Salt Creek Township, Decatur County, Indiana -- just where the counties of Franklin, Ripley, and Decatur, corner. The sources of this material are from the original deed, newspaper clippings, U. S. Army discharge, and notes left by my father, Ambrose Hickman. About forty years ago, he, with the assistance of Letta Collicott Williams, wrote a fairly complete history of this school. This history cannot be located, but many of my father's notes were, and have been used in this sketch.

The name Mt. Etna came from a steep bluff on the farm of James Parmer; who gave the name of Mt. Etna to that bluff is not known. The first school by the name of Mt. Etna was an old log, one room cabin, just across the Decatur County line, in Ray Township, Franklin County, on the farm of John Barton Hickman. One night it burned to the ground. The families of that neighborhood got together and decided to ask for a school to be established for the community in Decatur County. Why Decatur County was selected of the three counties is not now known.

Among my father's papers is the original deed of James Moodey, Rebecca Ann Moodey, and James Parmer and America Parmer to Salt Creek Township. Only James Moodey could sign his name. The other three signed by "mark."

In later years the "e" was dropped from the Moodey name, and the name in that community became "Moody." The deed reads as follows: "On the part of the said James Moodey and Rebecca Moodey, commencing at the corner stone between the lands of said Moodey and Parmer, on the Harrison Road and running west, six and one half rods, thence north, fourteen rods, thence east, six and one half rods, thence south to the place of beginning and on the part of the said James Parmer and America Parmer, commencing at the above described corner stone and running east five rods, thence north fourteen rods, thence west five rods, thence south to the place of beginning, being a part of the south east quarter of section No. twenty eight (next word is undistinguishable) range eleven, containing one acre and one rod."

This deed was executed on February 4, 1865 by Joel Colson, Justice of Peace, and was received for recording in Greensburg, Indiana April 4, 1865 at 1 P. M. o'clock, and is recorded in deed Book, Volume 8, page 31. James R. Cox was the Decatur County recorder. The price paid by Salt Creek Township for this property was \$10. The name of the trustee of Salt Creek Township does not appear on the deed.

A frame one room school house was built on this property and it is thought that the first school term opened in November of 1865, with Tichard W. Bowen as teacher. The "old timers" of the community always spoke of Richard W. Bowen as being from Kingston, but Kingston must have been his home after teaching at Mt. Etna. He was a Civil War Veteran of Company A, 82nd Rgt. Ind. Infantry Volunteers, and his discharge, now in possession of his granddaughter, Mrs. Marie Clark, Greensburg, shows he was discharged on the 6th day of July, 1865 at Madison, Indiana and that he was a native of Worcester County, Maryland. My late husband, Ralph Bowen Linville, was his grandson. Perhaps Mr. Bowen came up through southern Indiana from Madison, and was hired as



-5-

the first teacher of the new Mt. Etna school. Leonard Perry Hart and Lafayette Hickman are known to have been two of the pupils of that first school term in the new school. Mr. Bowen was said to have been a very brilliant scholar himself, but was not considered a practical man by the school patrons. He loved to read poetry to his pupils, and this was considered not contributing much to preparing the boys and girls of that day, for their rugged life ahead. How many terms Mr. Bowen taught at Mt. Etna is not a matter of record, but it was more than one.

After Mr. Bowen came a man, quite the opposite. His name is obscure, but if my memory of "tales told" serves me correctly it was Sample. He ruled by the "birch rod" so he satisfied even less than did Mr. Bowen.

The following account of the next few years at Mt. Etna, are taken directly from my father's notes.

"My first days at school are very vivid in my mind. They were spent at Mt. Etna, and I started to school in the fall of 1872. My first teacher, and for several years thereafter, was my cousin Ellen Moody, of the New Pennington neighborhood. She was a very talented forceful woman, quick to speak her mind, and high tempered. There were about 60 pupils in the winter months, some of them young men and women. Many is the time I have heard her tell the big boy, "Unless you mend your ways, you will end up on the gallows." I guess we all mended our ways, for none of us, that I know of, ended there.

"Some of my school mates during those early years at Mt. Etna were: Anderson, Ed, and Lucinda Shouse; Joe, Isaac, Lizzie, Louise, Martha and Rose Parmor -- Rose was deaf and dumb and was later sent to school in Indianapolis -- Fred, John, and Charles Myers; John Korte; Ben and Amelia Hibbler; Mary and Louise Hackman; Louise, Annie, Mary and Sophia Miller; Frank, Williard, Celia, William Henry, Milton, Ed, Sereptia, Isaac and Nathaniel Hart; John, Amelia and Mary Ceese; Robert Brooks; Jerry Whitten; Frank Wise; Sherman Risinger; Curtis, Harmen, and Jacob Collicott; Fred, Bill, Henry, Annie, Sophia, and Mary Mellow, and my own brothers Frances, Jared, Cash, Mort, and sister Am.

"After Ellen Moody came a teacher from Buena Vista, whose name was W. M. Gard, but was called "Kenny" Gard by everyone. Spelling matches, ciphoring matches, singing schools, Friday afternoon Literaries, and wrestling matches became popular under his leadership. I recall a spelling match in May of 1875, I believe, in which Susie Wise represented New Pennington school, a mile and a half west of Mt. Etna, and I represented Mt. Etna school. I soon lost to Susie. I believe Susie went on to Greensburg, where a contest was held in the Court House, and won that contest. As I recall it, some western land offered by a James Hart was to be the prize. Whether Susie got the land or not I do not know -- but Susie could spell. Susie married my cousin, John Moody.

"Kenny Gard frequently cut the boys' hair at recess and noon. One recess he had finished just half of a hair cut for Curt Collicott when recess time was up. Mr. Gard told Curt he would go to his home that



night and finish the job. However, we all suspected he was more interested in Curt's pretty half-sister than he was in finishing the job of hair cutting.

"Mr. Gard was my teacher for the rest of the time I attended school, and it seems to me, now, that he was a good teacher, for we learned the three R's rather thoroughly.

"A disaster took place in the Mt. Etna neighborhood on my ninth birthday -- February 13, 1876. A warm Sunday afternoon, and while my mother was away helping care for a very sick child -- Willie Parmer -- my sister Ann and I took off our shoes and stockings and went barefoot on the "chip pile." About 7 P. M. that night a storm struck and dipped down in the Hart neighborhood about one and one-half miles southwest of Mt. Etna. Houses and barns were blown down and much timber felled, but no loss of life. Our school house was in the path of the storm, and only the foundation was left. Luckily it was at night, and no one in the building. Our house and barn were in the path of the storm, the barn went, and all our house but the one room, in which Mother had shoved us kids, all under the bed.

"For the rest of that term we had school in an old one room log house that stood in the yard of the James Parmer farm, just a short distance east of the school property -- only now the farm was owned by George Wise. It was great fun having school in the log house, heated by a big fireplace, no desks, no chairs, books or anything but the teacher, and a flock of eager boys and girls. All the big boys were kept out the rest of that term to help clean up the fallen timber, saw lumber, and help rebuild houses and barns.

"During the summer a new brick school house was built on the site of the old school. Door in one end, three windows on each side, and one end a solid wall. Inside, this solid wall, provided a place for a wonderful slate black board. Also there was a belfry, with a bell that could be heard all over the neighborhood. This was the usual pattern for the one room schools in that day, and for a good many years to come. Kenny Gard taught for several years in this new building."

This is the end of my father's notes on his school life at Mt. Etna School. I have a Currier and Ives picture, "The Rival Queens," given to my father in the spring of 1877 by W. M. Gard for "perfect attendance."

Records seem to indicate that W. M. Gard was followed by Henrietta Anderson, a local girl of 19 years of age. She had been a pupil at Mt. Etna school, perhaps under Mr. Bowen, and lived only a "stone's throw" from the school, on the farm that was known in my days as the Schutte farm. I recall one of my uncles saying that many of the big boys in the community went back to school that winter for three month's term -- more interested in the teacher than in the subject matter. Miss Anderson was a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson. More about her later in this history.

Here we have a lapse of a few years as to any information about the school or the teachers.



William Jenkins of New Point taught at Mt. Etna for several years, and the time seems to have been in the late 80's or early 90's.

Miss Lillie Hoff of New Point came to Mt. Etna to teach in the fall of '93 or '94. In the fall of '98 she was followed by Miss Letta Collicott. Miss Collicott was the young sister of Curtis, Harman, and Jacob Collicott who had attended Mt. Etna during my father's time. In the meantime her parents had moved from the farm near Mt. Etna to one about two miles west of the former home, so Miss Collicott never attended school there. Miss Collicott was my first teacher, and stayed in our home and I loved her dearly. When her son, Andrew, started to school, I was his first teacher. Miss Hoff and Miss Collicott married brothers, Logan and Charles Williams of New Pennington.

Miss Collicott was followed in the fall of 1904 by a young man, 19 years of age, Grover Harding, of near New Point. He was quite a brilliant young man, and frequently was far over our heads. He always spelled our school "Mt. Aetna" which we resented heartily! He spent the summer, after his first year of teaching, in Colorado. Returning home in the late summer, he died shortly of tuberculosis.

He was followed by Miss Elva Puttmann of New Point. She was a cousin of Grover Harding. Miss Puttmann drove from New Point each day, a distance of three and one-half miles. That was quite a feat in the days of mud roads and a horse and buggy. Miss Puttmann was the first teacher who did not "board" in the community.

By this time, Mt. Etna enrollment had dwindled to 14, and 7 of these were transfers from Ripley and Franklin Counties. As a result of this, Mt. Etna school closed its doors, never to reopen, in April, 1907. Miss Puttmann had taught two years here. So the life span of Mt. Etna school was from 1865 to 1907. We were consolidated with New Pennington and became a two room school.

As I recall the last pupils at the Mt. Etna school were: Roll, Joe, Ethel and Mamie Parner; Everet, Mabel, and Grace Parner, Olin Gommel; Oscar Shouse; Helen and Harry Strunck; Arthur and Clarence Myers and Anna Lee Hickman.

Some of the events that were typical of the social aspect of the school in the community should be noted, to round out the History, for the school was the community. One of the most looked forward to events of the school year was the "pie supper" or "box supper" as the case might be. This was held early in the fall, soon after the opening of the school term. The purpose was to make some money to buy the "Reading Circle" books. How we loved those books! They were our only source of outside reading. The supper was usually held on Friday night, and early on Friday afternoon milk, eggs, and sugar would be collected from the patrons and brought to the school house. Someone went to New Point for ice, and borrowed Henry Wolfe's ten gallon ice cream freezer -- usually my father made that trip. The big boys turned the freezer and when the cream was frozen it was packed in sawdust and ice to keep until evening. Each family furnished a cake, and an ice cream and cake stand was set up. The older boys and girls worked in this stand, and the younger ones worked in the candy and peanut stand. The prize job was working in the Fish Pond. That was usually settled



by drawing lots. The candy, gum, peanuts and items for the Fish Pond usually came from Kramer's store in Batesville, purchased the Saturday before by the teacher. All the young ladies of the community brought a gayly decorated box containing her pie, or supper. These were auctioned off, and young men were known to go as high as 85¢, and on one rare occasion, \$1, for the box brought by the girl of his choice. But it was great fun and all the community turned out for the event. However, on Saturday morning the teacher and some of the pupils had to clean the school and grounds, to be ready for school as usual on Monday morning.

Christmas was celebrated by a "program" given on the afternoon of the day school closed for a week's vacation -- which was December 24, if December 24 fell on a school day. This was the time the mothers and little brothers and sisters usually came. Each pupil would "speak a piece," and there were songs and dialogues. The school room would be decorated in cedar, and sometimes a Christmas tree -- we were quite festive. The teacher treated -- candy, nuts and usually an orange. Sometimes an orange for each little brother and sister that mama brought along.

Spring had its special day for us, too. Each spring, on a nice warm Friday afternoon, we had a Flower Hunt. After school "took up" on some such day, the teacher would announce that this would be a good afternoon to hunt wild flowers. Books were hurriedly put away, and off we raced, teacher with us, down through L. P. Hart's woods, along the banks of little Laughery Crick, through Mrs. Schutte's woods, and then, much more slowly, up the hill, back to the school house. It had been a happy afternoon, we had found many wild flowers, for both woods had many varieties. I wonder if any are left there now or did we destroy all of them!

On the "last day of school," again we usually had a planned program. Again we "spoke pieces," had drills and songs. I remember one year Miss Collicott gave a demonstration with Indian Clubs. Miss Collicott had been to Normal School at Terre Haute, and had taken "Gymnastics." We thought it was wonderful! If a teacher were well liked and if her return was desired by the patrons, there was usually a "surprise" dinner by the patrons and friends in the community. All gathered at a designated place, with well filled baskets, converged on the school, knocked on the door, and when the "surprised" teacher opened the door, the assembled group greeted her with yells of "surprise, surprise!" The "last day" was also the time for giving out awards. These were usually given for "perfect attendance" and "proficiency in spelling."

An important event to the teacher and pupils, during the school year, was the Annual Visit of the County Superintendent of Schools. Elmer Jerman held this position in Decatur County for a number of years. I recall his visits to Mt. Etna. Sometimes he talked to us, but mostly he listened to the classes, being conducted by the teacher. We always tried to do our very best then, for we sensed it had something to do with our teacher's "success grade" given each year by the County Superintendent.

Mt. Etna school house also served for "extra curricular activities" although that phrase was unknown then. From the 1890's until about



1904 Sunday School was held at the school house each Sunday morning. Occasionally a visiting minister came and delivered a sermon. I can remember T. J. Hart as a student at Moores Hill College doing so. On Sunday evenings "Christian Endeavor" was held for the young people of the community. One June Sunday we had a Children's Day Program. Dr. Jerman, of New Point, was always much interested in the activities of our little community, and as a special treat for the children taking part in the Program, he sent five gallons of the largest strawberries we had ever seen. After the program all the children were treated to strawberries and cream. The little Sunday School always sent a "delegation" to the 4th of July celebration -- which is a story in itself. The same youngsters who went to Mt. Etna school in the winter were, for the most part, the same ones who attended the Sunday School.

Sometimes a medicine show came through the neighborhood and had a "one night stand" at the school house. "Patriotic" meetings were sometimes held there too. I remember Neil McCallum, editor of the Batesville Tribune, speaking one afternoon after a "flag raising" at the "corner" between Decatur and Franklin Counties. I judge now that the meeting was more a "Republican" meeting than a "patriotic" one -- if I remember Mr. McCallum correctly. "Flag raising" was another story of the Mt. Etna community. Was it common elsewhere in Indiana?

The bell of the school house was a fire alarm for the community. I can remember the ringing of the bell when Mr. Miller's barn burned, and also for Mrs. Schutte's barn.

Mt. Etna school sent many young men and women from its doors -- a few achieved fame and recognition, but most of us did not. Perhaps the two best known and most famous of the men were Jacob Grant Collicott and Thomas Jefferson Hart. Mr. Collicott became an educator of national fame. He served as city superintendent of the Indianapolis City Schools, for a number of years with marked success. At the time of his death in 1937 he was the city Superintendent of the Columbus, Ohio schools. He also had served in administrative positions in the northwest. Mr. Collicott was a brother of Miss Collicott who taught at Mt. Etna. The friendship of Mr. Collicott and my father, from their boyhood days at Mt. Etna school, continued throughout their lives. Thomas Jefferson Hart was ordained in the Methodist Church and was one of the best known and beloved ministers of southeastern Indiana. Rev. Hart held pastorates in North Vernon, Dillsboro, Versailles, Brownstown and Barth Place in Indianapolis. He died in 1938 in Indianapolis. His wife was the former Lydia Gornel, who had also been a pupil at Mt. Etna.

Of the women who attended Mt. Etna, perhaps Henrietta Anderson achieved the most fame. After her brief teaching career at Mt. Etna, she, with her family, went to Kansas. There she graduated from a medical college. She was the first woman M. D. to hold membership in the Medical Association of Kansas City. For a number of years she was the secretary of that organization. She practiced her profession for many years in Kansas City. She was the only pupil of Mt. Etna school who also was a teacher there.

Others who went on to higher education and entered the teaching profession were: John F. Parner; Effa Parner; Annie Korte; Anna Lee



Hickman; Ethel Parmer; Mabel Parmer; Grace Parmer and Manie Parmer. John F. Parmer, after teaching in Purdue, left the teaching profession and is still active with an architectural firm in Chicago. Effa Parmer McKee retired from the Noblesville Public School system two years ago. Annie Korte Siebert and Manie Parmer Metz have not taught for some years. Anna Lee Hickman Linville retired last June from Southern Seminary Junior College in Buena Vista, Virginia. Ethel Parmer Barclay teaches in New Point schools. Mabel Parmer retired last June from Anderson High School, and Grace Parmer Ryan is teaching in the Jacksonville, Florida schools.

The Parmer family, in general, was a family talented in mechanical and engineering skills. Clyde, Ora, Claude, Roll and their cousin, Everet, all worked as such. Clyde also served as trustee of Salt Creek Township several terms. Roll, last year, retired as Superintendent of the Decatur County roads.

Bert and Arch Paramore and Howard Parmer, in early young manhood, learned telegraphy, and became telegraphers for the New York Central Railroad. Arch was stationed at Fairland at the time of his death. Howard went west and died in Nebraska. Bert was retired from the Union Station in Indianapolis and is spending his retirement years in Orlando, Florida.

This is an incomplete list of the activities and achievements of former Mt. Etna pupils. Many were "tillers of the soil" and "bakers of loaves" who made worthy contributions to the rural life of our great Hoosier state.

In the summer of 1908, my father, who then owned the farm that James and America Parmer owned in 1865, when the deed was made to Salt Creek Township, purchased from Salt Creek Township the Mt. Etna school property of "one acre and one rod," for the sum of \$66.66. John A. Meyer was the trustee of Salt Creek Township. Later the west half of the property was deeded to my father's sister, An Parmer, who then owned the farm, originally owned by James and Rebecca Ann Moodey. Thus the original boundry lines of the farms were reestablished. Eventually the school house was torn down, and the bricks sold to go into the construction of other buildings. The equipment and Reading Circle books were moved to the New Pennington school, and the bell taken to the New Point school.

Today only the well remains as physical evidence of Mt. Etna school. To some of us -- who are now the old timers -- there will always be a Mt. Etna, for it holds many dear memories for us of teachers and school mates. We were in no wise different or unusual. There were many such one room schools in Indiana. But those of us who knew them are glad that we had that experience. Perhaps we were richer in the "good old days" than we realized.

This classic, so well written, has a particular appeal to the editor, because he knew so many of the people involved. The story is typical of any community and is further proof that Mt. Etna like any other crossroad, abounds in its local history, waiting only for someone to tell the story. Thank you, Anna Lee Linville, for a fine job, well done. - ed.



### A PIONEER WEDDING

The wedding was an attractive feature of pioneer life. For a long time after the first settlement of the Territory, the people married young. There was no distinction of rank, and very little of fortune. On these accounts, the first impression of love generally resulted in marriage. The family establishment cost but little labor--nothing more. A description of a wedding in the olden time will serve to show the progress made in society, as well as preserve an important phase of history. The marriage was always celebrated at the house of the bride; and she was generally left to choose the officiating clergyman. A wedding, however, engaged the attention of the whole neighborhood. It was anticipated by both old and young with eager expectation. In the morning of the wedding day the groom and his intimate friends assembled at the house of his father, and, after due preparation, departed, en masse, for the "mansion" of his bride. The journey was sometimes made on horseback, sometimes on foot, and sometimes in farm wagons or carts. It was always a merry journey; and, to insure merriment, the bottle was taken along. On reaching the house of the bride, the marriage ceremony took place; and then dinner or supper was served. After the meal, the dancing commenced, and generally lasted till the following morning. The figures of the dances were three and four handed reels, or square sets and jigs. The commencement was always a square four, which was followed by what the pioneers called "jigging;" that is, two of the four would single out for a jig, and were followed by the remaining couple. The jigs were often accompanied with what was called "cutting out;" that is, when either of the parties became tired of the dance, on intimation, the place was supplied by some one of the company, without any interruption of the dance. In this way the reel was often continued until the musician was exhausted.

About nine or ten o'clock in the evening, a deputation of young ladies stole off the bride, and put her to bed. In doing this, they had to ascend a ladder from the kitchen to the upper floor, which was composed of loose boards. Here, in this pioneer bridal chamber, the young, simple-hearted girl was put to bed by her enthusiastic friends. This done, a deputation of young men escorted the groom to the same apartment, and placed him snugly by the side of his bride. The dance still continued; and if seats were scarce, which was generally the case, "every young man, when not engaged in the dance, was obliged to offer his lap as a seat for one of the girls; and the offer was sure to be accepted." During the night's festivities, spirits were freely used, but seldom to great excess. The infair was held on the following evening, when the same order of exercises was observed.

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### THE LAST MEETING

The Kemble room was taxed to its capacity to hear Miss Ruth Snyder of Rockville present her program on "Covered Bridges of Indiana."

Her photography was outstanding as was her knowledge of the subject and love for her hobby.

Miss Snyder, an authority in this field, related interesting facts concerning many of the bridges in this locality and the clever



interposing of slides showing the flowers and foliage of the country side created an atmosphere which made all present feel that they, too, had taken a most enjoyable trip through rural Indiana.

In conclusion, she said that beauty can be enjoyed right here in our own home state if we only take the time to discover it.

F. S. E.

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OUR GROWING LIBRARY

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR THE STATE OF INDIANA - DECEMBER 1852. This little volume, devoid of statistics, has a very interesting chapter on FEMALE TEACHERS by the first superintendent - W. C. Larrabee. This was a brief in behalf of employing lady teachers.

HISTORY OF INDIANA - illustrated, published in 1879. This leather-bound volume of 798 pages has an introductory chapter on pioneer life in Indiana and a story of one phase of that period is carried elsewhere in this issue of the BULLETIN. The two books are a gift to the Society by Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Ritter of Menlo Park, California.

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MEMBERSHIP--Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

FALL FIELD TRIP--As previously announced, our field trip will take us to the St. Paul-St. Omer area, this coming October. The chairman has been appointed and knowing how capable he is, we are looking forward to the afternoon with a great deal of anticipation.

REMINISCENCES EARLY SHELBY AND DECATUR COUNTIES by J. R. French  
This article which first appeared in part in the last issue of the BULLETIN will be concluded in the next issue, this due to circumstances beyond our control.



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 22

Greensburg, Indiana

September 30, 1964

EARLY BIRDS

Once more it is time for the EARLY BIRDS. Strangely enough these come in the fall. They are members who pay their 1965 membership fee early and in advance. These nice birds do not demand that the secretary spend her time plus four to eight cents postage to get them back in the fold. Rare birds - these EARLY BIRDS!

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DISADVANTAGES OF THE GRADED SYSTEM IN OUR INTERIOR TOWNSHIPS VERY TRIFLING-

The only disadvantage of any moment to be apprehended in introducing the graded system into all our townships, arises from the distance, which pupils from the frontiers of the townships must travel, in order to reach the central High School... In summer and in autumn the distance is no objection. The walk of two or three miles would injure no one, not even the delicate female. It would, in most cases, prove an advantage to the physical energy and mental acuteness of the scholars.....In winter the females might find the walking inconvenient. But among our rural population there is no want of means of conveyance. In every farm yard there is a plenty of horses, and mules, to carry all the children to school. Should the farmer have to harness up his team, and take his children three miles to school, every morning, and every evening to bring them home, he would do it at much less expense, than he would incur by sending them to a private school.

-First Annual Report-Supt. Public Instruction for the State of Indiana-December 1852

OCCASION: Fall Field Trip  
DATE: Sunday afternoon  
October 18, 1964  
TIME: 2 P. M. - EST  
PLACE: St. Omer School House  
St. Omer, Indiana

The annual fall field trip will start from the St. Omer "school-house" which incidentally is the present home of our co-chairman Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Rutherford. Under their guidance the group will visit points of historical interest in and around St. Paul, St. Omer and Star Church. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford are natives of Adams township and to say that they are well qualified to tell the story, is an understatement. We can look forward to a very pleasant afternoon. The usual coffee and doughnuts as a traditional part of the social hour to follow, will be served by the Ladies of Star Church. There will also be a display at the church, Mr. Joe Shelhorn and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dale Brown cooperating.

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

NO TRANSPORTATION!

No problem at all. Call President Mr. Loren Garner at 663-4970 and a way will be provided.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Miss Catherine Donnell-Brooklyn,  
N. Y.  
Miss Minerva Donnell-Roswell, N.  
Mexico  
Mrs. Stephen Gaynor-New York, N.Y.  
Mr. Ewing Arnold  
Mrs. Ewing Arnold 468



Reminiscences of the late "Uncle John" Shelhorn as told by himself for the last time in September, 1912 to Chas. C. Roberts.

John and Lydia Shelhorn, parents of Uncle John Shelhorn came from New Jersey in 1818, stopped at Brookville (Ind.) until the land sale in Indiana in 1820. They bought seventeen 80-acre tracts in Rush and Decatur Counties. They sold part of the land and built the old flour mill that formerly stood at Downeyville. The mill was owned by Flynn & White and afterwards by Mr. Banta. The mill has been gone a number of years and is no longer a landmark.

Uncle John was three years old when his father died. In looks he, (the father), resembled Uncle Lewis Shelhorn, but in form was built like Uncle John. There were no photographs in those days.

Eight years later his mother died of hemorrhage of the lungs. Both parents died young. When his parents first came to this country they built a double house out of walnut logs on the farm now owned by John Shelhorn (in 1963 - Joe Shelhorn). The old shop that stood at the brow of the hill for so many years was an attachment to this house and it was in this part Uncle John was born. There was no floor in the main part of the building until Uncle John was 12 years old. The children slept upstairs and could stick their fingers out through the cracks between the logs.

There were no saw mills to make boards. They made ash slabs four inches thick and they were called puncheon and laid these for floors. Doors were made of the same material. They had no nails to fasten the shingles on the house but cut long poles to lay on top of the shingles to hold them down. They made hinges out of wood and had wooden latches with a string attachment on the outside to raise the latch. At night the string could be drawn inside and no one could enter. It is said from this custom originated the word "Hoosier," a contraction of the words "who's there," for often that question would be asked before the door would be opened. Thus Indiana in the early days got the name of "Hoosier State."

Early families owned from 5 to 20 acres of land, cows ran in the woods and lived on pea vines (they looked something like morning-glory vines). They used cow bells, each cow had a different bell so they could distinguish the different tones and hunt their cows. There was no grass for them to eat. In the evening when they would go after the cows they would start one hour by the sun and leave some one at home to blow a horn for fear the darkness would come on and they would get lost in the woods. Wild onions eaten by the cows sometimes spoiled the milk. The horns were blown at dinner-time to call the men from their work in the fields.

The hogs were turned loose in the woods and ate beechnuts and acorns. To prevent the meat from being so oily and dripping, because of the nut diet, some people fed the hogs about six weeks before butchering.

The hogs lived wild and learned to protect themselves from wild beasts. The old hogs had long tusks and the wolves could not manage them. The sheep were most helpless and were always taken first. The wolves were killed off in a few years. The deer lasted several years and there were wild turkeys.



Brooms were made from hickory trees splintered down to scrub with. They sold for 20¢ apiece. They churned with dasher churns. Coopers was the name of the workers who went from house to house and made shingles, tubs, buckets, and churns from the timber in the woods.

When Uncle John was eight years old he started to school. His teacher's name was "Taylor," he could scarcely write but knew his letters. Abraham Plue was one of his best teachers, but he said he learned more from Henry Doggett than from any of his teachers. Mr. Doggett could spell, read, and write. When he was 16 years old he studied arithmetic, geography, and grammar and quit going to school when he was 18. Each scholar had his own book and recited alone. They spelled for headmarks twice a day.

Uncle John said, "They never put me to work on the farm until I was ten years old. Lewis and I went out to hoe corn, and every time I would stop and look across the field, I would think when I get over there a little farther it will not be so bad." He said that he never forgot the first day's work and all through life like the rest of us he would look forward and think it will be better a little farther on.

When his father died there were ten acres cleared on the farm. Samuel, the elder brother, was fourteen, and could do the chores and go to the mill.

He raised his first crop of corn for himself when he was twenty-two years old. That year he fed eighty head of hogs, shipped them part way to Cincinnati and drove them the rest of the way. Humphrey Stevens shipped his hogs at the same time. He hired his hogs killed and sold them for \$300 net. He said the only time in his life that he bought whisky for men was at this time when according to the custom of the times, the butchers demanded it, he would not buy it for himself but gave them 25¢ to buy one gallon.

When they returned home they took a boat to Madison, Indiana, then the railroad to Shelbyville, and from there walked home. He said that year he cleared four hundred dollars and made this remark "If I always do that well I will be satisfied."

His grandmother was a Quaker and married outside the Quaker church. They tried to make her say she was "sorry" and because she would not she was turned out of the church. The Quakers at that time had no preachers but whoever felt like he was moved by the spirit would get up and talk. They did not believe in laziness or pauperism. When two young people got married, the people would buy them a little house and if they did not work and support themselves they were excluded from the church.

Uncle John loved the Quaker church better than any other. There being no church in his community in 1870, he was instrumental in building the New Little Flatrock Baptist Church. He gave one summer's work, five hundred dollars and collected the balance of the money for the erection of the building and superintended the work. He could leave no better memorial.

Hannah Brown



## ISRAEL JEWETT'S FIRST TELEPHONE

A voice came on the line cautioning them to watch their language. The VOICE was that of Samantha Jewett. The "party of the first part" was at the Jewett homestead about a quarter of a mile north of St. Omer, and the "party of the second part" was at the St. Omer general store operated by Jewetts. The farmers had gathered to loaf awhile and engage in a little spit-and-whittle session. When the language heard in Mrs. Jewett's kitchen became disturbing to her, she merely spoke into the cigar box on the kitchen wall, and a wire carried her words of warning to the store, being heard by all present.

Israel Jewett, in the early 1860's had among other creative things, perfected something of a phenomenon in the world of communications. People all over the country were searching for the right technique, whereby the human voice could be in communication with voices at other locations. All kinds of ideas were projected.

It was during an informal visit with a caller that he was sitting on the stone step at his front door, holding the brim of his stiff-katy hat in his left hand. He felt the vibrations in the hat when he spoke--and there was born the idea of a telephone. Mr. Jewett's creation was an open connection, the transmitter picking up any noise or voice in its range, and carried it by wire to the receiver at the other end of the line. Thus his first telephone was a sort of "hear-all---tell-all" system, but it raised the eyebrows of every observer.

An octogenerian living in Seattle, Washington, wrote recently, "I sure do remember Israel Jewett. Even listened to a woman sing over the phone that he had from his place to where she lived (and I was only a little kid then), but could hear her voice as plain as though she was right in the room. How far her place was from where I was, I don't know."

Approximately in 1902 or 1903 he extended his telephone service to the OLD MORVEN neighborhood for the consideration of \$11.00 a year. Jewett was not only the owner-manager of the company, but he was the bookkeeper and maintenance man, too. Children thrilled at the sight of his sorrel horse and work-wagon coming down the road, for that huckster-type rig with curtains on the sides that rolled up and fastened with a strap was bringing an individualist that had hundreds of unique and scholarly tales to tell, blended with wit.-----And if anyone had a cut or sore, he always gave them a free treatment of his SAMARITAN OIL.

Did Mr. Jewett have any formal education in what we would call today,--the field of electronics? No. Aside from his education in the St. Omer school, he had native ability that led him to get patents on lots of things, a few of which are: a special kind of gate, a kind of shoe polish, and a drug called SAMARITAN OIL. The Jewetts were educated by their own reading. Always in their household there were books that challenged the intellect of the most eager mind. When son Earl was in medical college, father Israel and grandfather Hiram really put him through his paces, for they would test his wits to the limit when he came home for vacations.....Along with the able assistance of "drug-gist" father Hiram Jewett, the SAMARITAN OIL was formulated into an



effective medication for burns, etc., and their shelf was never without it-----neither was the work-wagon.

The Jewetts were among the first settlers of Adams township, locating near the present site of Downeyville, where David Jewett built a stone house and acquired a large tract of land through the land grant office at Brookville. He built the old Picayune mills and in the early days was a distiller of whisky, and also operated a tannery. He built the first saw-mill on Flat Rock River and also the first grist-mill.

Hiram, Israel's father operated the store in St. Omer for a number of years, and the farm north of there where he built the present brick house. Along with the 396 acre farm,--also a land grant, he operated at the homestead site a first-rate drug store, where he also served as the community dentist. For a number of years he was the trustee of Adams township.

From this location the cigar box telephone grew into the JEWETT TELEPHONE COMPANY which was one of the best public utilities in these parts. The lines were connected to all points in Rush, Decatur, and Shelby Counties. Although it was the early bitter opinion that Alexander Graham Bell received the coveted patent for the telephone, which rightfully belonged to Jewett, it was the later knowledge of the family that Mr. Bell's telephone was entirely different, and they bowed to the inevitable. Israel Jewett even in retirement, maintained a warm community interest, and a keen progressive attitude.

BUT NOW WE HAVE REGRETS. As so many others have said, "If only our foresight was as keen as our hindsight, things would be different." What would have been priceless keepsakes were thoughtlessly thrown away or given to a passing junk man. Thus the first telephone equipment in these parts,--the old, old apothecary jars,--mortar and pestles, and the old dentist chair that had cluttered the place for so long (they thought) were disposed of. The final regret is that a story is lost. The family had among the old patent records, the land grant deeds, and rare books, a prized copy of the full page article that told the story of Israel Jewett's telephone. The CINCINNATI ENQUIRER carried this front page feature some one or two years before or after 1863. The article was loaned to the Indianapolis Telephone Company for reprint. It was carefully returned to the granddaughter, Justine Jewett Wesseling, but now to her sorrow (and mine) it cannot be found. Is there within the scope of my pen any person who can provide us with a copy of this article? If so, this poor scribe would enjoy the documented "printers ink" along with her feeble, but determined effort to preserve something of Israel Jewett's telephone--the story which accompanied her growing up.

Marceil L. Freeland

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Reminiscences of Early Shelby County (Cont'd)  
J. R. French

Now I will come back into Shelby county. After the mill was built and a town was started, and a store in the town, and the Michigan road cut out the people thought they were highly favored and some of them that had money began to enjoy life after the manner of those days. About this time, in 1830, there were a great many large teams put on the road to haul goods to Indianapolis, as there was no other way to get the goods from Cincinnati to Indianapolis except to haul



then on wagons, and it took a team thirty days to make the trip when the roads were bad, and they were nearly always bad. So much teaming and driving hogs on roads did it. In 1832 a stage was put on the Michigan road between Cincinnati and Indianapolis, and they established stands from ten to fifteen miles apart where the horses were changed. Father kept them, and the next stand was at Hankins, a little this side of Brandywine. It took two days to drive from Cincinnati to Indianapolis. The stage was the only public conveyance and travelers ate breakfast at our house one day and dinner the next. They drove from Cincinnati to Napoleon one day and the next day to Indianapolis. They ate breakfast going west and dinner going east. The stage held nine persons, and sometimes it would be full and sometimes empty, but we had to have the table set for nine which made it a very uncertain business. Father kept the horses and boarded the drivers for twelve dollars a month. Hotels began to spring up between us and Shelbyville. There was Curmin's, then Worland, Lowdon, Zell, Thompson and Midkiff. The traveling was so great that we hardly ever ate a meal alone and father's charges were so small compared with now. Nearly all the travel was on horseback, and it was a common thing for a half dozen or more to ride up spattered all over with mud, and father would take them in, have them take off their leggings and overcoats and us boys would take off the saddles and ride the horses to the creek nearby and wash them off and put them in the stable and give them hay. Then after supper the men would go with us to the stable and order the kind of grain they wanted them fed, and then they would go back to the house and we would clean their horses and bed them. When we got back to the house father gave them slippers to put on and their boots were to clean and blacken. In the morning when they came down stairs they would find their boots nicely blackened and they ate breakfast. We would clean their overcoats and have their horses out and saddled and then father would charge them thirty-seven and a half cents. Afterward he raised the price to one-half dollar and we thought it was high. But we produced everything except some of the groceries. We raised our bread and all of our meat except mackerel. We made our sugar and molasses. We bought coffee by the sack and tea by the chest.

In 1825 when there was no whiskey made here and people thought it as necessary as bread, my father decided to make it. He went back to Lebanon, where a man owed him a debt. All he could get from him was a set of copper stills. My father brought it out and set it up and stilled for three years, for he thought he could not keep a hotel without whiskey. This was the first still house in the county and it would have been a good thing if it had been the last. The first thing that set father to thinking about it was men bringing meal to the still house to trade for whiskey, when he knew their children needed it for bread. He thought it was wrong to sell it, but he thought he could not keep a hotel without whiskey, so he made three barrels and put it in the cellar and shut down the still house. In those days the table was never set without the whiskey bottle on it and the man that would not drink was considered a crank and if a neighbor came in and the bottle was not offered to him he took it as an insult. Every morning we children must walk up and take some tanzy bitters.

Father sold his still to John Haymond, in Middletown, who stilled for a while, I don't know how long. The first person that refused to drink was the Presbyterian preacher. My mother was a Presbyterian and



the preachers would stop with us and preach at our house. My father and mother were the first to embrace the temperance cause and when they did they cut it all out and did not keep it in and about the house. My father was the first man to try to get in a harvest without whiskey. Wheat was then cut with a sickle and the wages was 50 cents a day. Father said he was going to pay 62-1/2 cents a day. His neighbors told him that he could not get help without whiskey, but he told them that he would cut what he could himself and then he would "hog" the rest. He had no trouble for that extra 12-1/2 cents "looked good" and he had more hands than needed. Father and mother were the leaders of the temperance movement in our neighborhood if not in the entire county and they instilled it into their sons so they were all temperance men.

We will now come back to the stage and mail business. The mail was carried on horse back until the stage was started. Joseph Common was the postmaster at Middletown. The carrier would drive up to the office with the stage and wait there until the postmaster would take the mail in and look over it all, taking out what belonged to his place, then the stage would drive on to the next office. The postage on a letter was 12-1/4 cents, paid when you received your letter. There were no stamps on letters, there was no change like there is now, five and ten cents. It was six and one-fourth, twelve and a half, eighteen and three-fourths, twenty-five, thirty-one and one-fourth, thirty-seven and a half, forty-three and three-fourths, and fifty cents, but it was not long after ten cent pieces came into circulation until postage came down to ten cents and later down to five. If paid in advance, three, and then down to two cents as it is now. This brings us to about 1830. At that time there was not a church in this part of Shelby county. Preaching was at private homes. The Presbyterians built a church in St. Omer in 1833, and about 1840 the Baptists built one at Middletown and soon after the Methodists built one at St. Omer. The "Hard Shell" Baptists built one just below St. Paul but when the railroad ran through in '53 it made some change. In 1832 there was not a railroad in the state and the state was talking of building one from Lawrenceburg to Indianapolis and did survey the route. The line ran a little north of Middletown. Next time I will tell you about the first railroad in the state or west of the Alleghany mountains.

In 1832 by the authority of the State, John Walker built a mile and a quarter of railroad, the first west of the Alleghany mountains, if not the first in the United States. It started opposite the distillery and went east to Midkiff's tavern. There is no mark of the tavern now, except some locust trees where the house stood, a little more than a hundred yards west of where the Cynthiana road crosses into the Michigan road. In your article about Sidney Robertson you say this road was built in 1834, which is a mistake. I remember it so well. The people came from quite a distance from over the State and some stayed over night with us on July 3. Father went out there on July 4 to ride on this wonderful railroad. A great many people's idea of a railroad was that the rails lay across the road in some mud hole. This road did not have a piece of iron about it. They cut down straight trees and laid them side by side, cutting notches in them to put the ties. They then drove a wedge in beside the tie and cut square notches in them to put the ties. They then drove a wedge in beside the tie and cut square notches in the ties to put square scantlings. They drove a



wedge beside the rails and then cut away the center of the tie to make a path for the horse. The car would carry forty persons and they charged 25 cents to ride out to Midkiff's and back. They would change horses every trip and as soon as forty got out forty more were ready to take their places. It was kept up all day on the Fourth of July, 1832, and some longer, or as long as it would pay. The State paid John Walker to build the road and he got the toll on the road extra. This was seventy-five years ago and very few that were there then are here now. There are still some marks of that road to be seen, and when I think of it I don't know of but one person near to Middletown except myself who was in this end of Shelby county at that time. That person is Margaret Haymond. She is living in Waldron, but was living in Middletown at that time. She is a daughter of Joseph Cummins, the oldest of the family, and the only one living. I might here make some mention of our first school--it was in Middletown. They built a hewed log school house and had no glass in the windows. This house stood on the bluff of Conn's creek and was a little past two years old when I went to school, 79 years ago. George Vanaman was the first school teacher. The next was John Portlock and after him his brother, Moses Portlock. The next was John Cartmel, who was the teacher for some years, and a good one. He bantered several schools to spell against his school. He bantered Jones, who was teaching one and a half miles south of Waldron, another was Moses Portlock, who was teaching at St. Omer, and Wesley Rucker, a little south of Blue Ridge. This was in 1835, when I was ten years old. We did nothing but spell for some time before we met to spell. Jones brought his school to Middletown and we spelled all day. Bird McNeeley and I were not turned down all day. Later we met at old "Uncle John" Haymond's. We did not take any other book to school than the spelling book until we were twelve years old. We then began to write. When our school and the one up toward Blue Ridge met it was a bad day and father would not let me go, but when we met Portlock they met at James Finley's on the Michigan road, just over the county line in Decatur county. It was nice weather and we met in the field and had martial music. Portlock, to make sure, got some of the best spellers in the Jones school and from a school up near Moscow, but we beat them. After Cartmel we had Wm. Jones. He was the last one I went to. He was teaching at the cross roads, where now is the town of Waldron. I don't remember any that were in those spelling contests, all gone, and I am left here yet.

We will now come back a few years and you will permit me to refer to my parents as they were far ahead of anything financially. As I have said before, they had money when they came here, and father was an industrious man always at work and never wasting anything in dissipation. He always had money to buy anything that he or mother had need of. So, years before any person would have thought of a cook stove, father brought one home. There was not another one this side of Greensburg or Shelbyville. To say that mother was proud of her stove does not tell it. She had a bake oven and a reflector was fine for baking biscuits, but when that cook stove came in it was the wonder of the neighborhood. Women would come miles to see it. Mother took some pride in telling them how to cook with it and to them it was a wonder. This was in 1833 or 1834. There were four boys and we kept four fires. Each boy had a fire to prepare wood for, but when this stove came each boy wanted to prepare the wood for it. No heavy wood for it like the fire place but it was not long until anyone could have the job, we had to split the wood so fine. About this time the Presbyterians built a



church and started a Sunday school in St. Omer and father and mother went to church on horseback, but one day father went to Greensburg and came home riding in a fine, two-seated carriage for which he paid two hundred dollars. At that time there was not a person between Greensburg and Shelbyville that owned a carriage and there was not one for several years. I was married in 1845 and brought my bride home in the carriage and I do not know another carriage in our neighborhood or anywhere near.

The first steam railroad in the State was built between Madison and Indianapolis in July, 1847. It was finished to Edinburg and I rode on horseback to Edinburg, and got on the train and rode to Madison and back. Some time that year it was finished to Indianapolis. The iron was flat bar and they made very slow time. In 1850 I rode up from Madison to Edinburg and on up to Shelbyville. The road extended on up to Rushville and Cambridge City. About the same time they built a road from Columbus to Shelbyville and on to Knightstown, and afterward the road from Shelbyville to Edinburg was dropped. The road from Shelbyville to Knightstown was abandoned and the Columbus end of the other were connected and are now part of the Pennsylvania system. In '53 the Big Four ran through the county on to Indianapolis. The stage then stopped and we had some way to get away beside private conveyance. The first place I saw a passenger train was on the Michigan Central road near Kalamazoo, Michigan, 1846.

In the first settling of Shelby county there were no cemeteries. Many farms have dead buried on them. When my father died in 1843 a cemetery was started in St. Omer.

I will now compare some prices of farm products years ago with the present prices. On the 2d day of June, 1843 was the administrator's sale of my father. The things were sold on a year's credit. We sold 400 bushels of corn in fifty bushel lots at from eleven and a half to twelve and a half cents; 300 bushels of oats at nine cents; three stacks of hay, two and a half tons in a stack, for \$4 per stack; seven cows from \$4 to \$7, four three year old steers at \$17.37-1/2, for the four.

While I am talking of prices of farm products and considering the price of eggs now and what they were sixty-five years ago, the present generation will hardly believe me when I tell them that I have seen eggs piled up in the stores at two cents a dozen and the merchants had to barrel them up packed in oats and have them hauled to Cincinnati and get three cents for them.

Speaking of merchants, Joseph Cummins was our first merchant at Middletown. Next after him was David Favett; then came George Wooden, and then James Curtis, who is still living on his farm one mile south of Waldron. About this time the railroad passed through and Waldron started up and the most of the business went to Waldron. This was in 1853. The farm that Curtis now lives on was entered by Henry Misner and he sold it to William Stears and he to James Curtis about fifty-five years ago. Mr. Curtis is getting along in years, one of the oldest in that neighborhood. There were old Mr. Knight, Mr. Newton, Mr. Stroup, Wilson Baxter, Short Haymond, Powell Chapman, Moore Chrisler, French Haymond, Monroe Finley, Creek Huffman, Wycoff Beedle, Bartley Mooney, Whiteacre, Vanpelt Tindall, all gone except Curtis and myself.



But I will now leave this subject and take up the doctors. If there is any man in this county that is blessed with doctors in the family I am that man. I had one brother, two sons-in-law, four nephews and one grandson that are doctors, and still I live. The first doctor we had in Middletown was Dr. Brown, and then came Dr. Griffin, the man that laid out the town of St. Omer. The prevailing disease then was ague or chills and fever, and the first thing the doctor did was to feel your pulse, look at your tongue and look wise, then call for the broom and then tell you to take hold of the broom handle and hold out your arm, while he would draw about a quart of blood out of your arm and then he would give you a dose of calomel and put a fly blister on you, somewhere. It did not make much difference where and when it had drawn sufficient to make a bad sore, you must take off and put on some kind of poultice to draw all the vitality out of you, and you were not allowed to have a drop of water or a bite of anything to eat, and if you did not die in a week he would conclude that you were worth saving and let you get well. After Dr. Brown left Middletown, Dr. Robbins came there and he was our doctor. While he was our doctor I had an attack of sore throat and he came and put a fly blister on my throat and as soon as it blistered he tore the skin off and put the plaster back on and when it had blistered the second time, tore off the blister and put the plaster on the third time, and the last time he put a plaster on the back of my neck, and still my head stayed on and I got well in spite of him. My honest opinion is that the doctor killed more people those days than they cured. I think there were many persons that died for want of water. I was personally acquainted with one case where they would not let the patient have any water and one Sunday some of his young friends called to see him, and a pitcher of water was brought in, and they thought he was going to die, and soon they all got up and went out to dinner. He got up and took the pitcher and drank all he wanted, and when they came in and found what he had done they sent for the doctor and when he arrived he was so much better that all were surprised and he got well in spite of the doctor. But doctors have more sense now. Where is the doctor that will bleed a patient now, or blister them, or refuse to let them have water to drink or food to eat. I have been told by doctors that there was no bigger humbug than the practice of medicine, and yet when we get sick we send for the doctor. It is the force of education. If things change as much in the next sixty years as they have in the last sixty years doctors will go out of practice. But I will stop for fear of the displeasure of the doctors.

I have spoken about the Presbyterians starting a Sunday school at St. Omer, and if you will bear with me I will give you some of my own experiences in Sunday school. I was eight years old when the school started, and I lived nearly three miles away. I never missed a day for eight years, winter or summer. My teacher was David Paramour, an elder, in the Presbyterian church at St. Omer. The school was re-organized every spring, but I remained in his class so that when the school had been going eight years; he said to me, "I know that you can teach a class and I want you to have a class of boys here next Sunday. Select them yourself." I was then sixteen years old, and while it was very embarrassing to me, I was taught to obey my superiors. So on the next Sunday I had my boys there--only four--and I taught them the best I could for some time. I then took a class of girls, and as I found them easier to teach, I continued to teach the young ladies



class for over fifty years. I now have a class of old folks. I have spent over seventy years of my life in the Sunday school, but I don't think I shall spend many more. I sometimes think I will quit, but when Sunday comes, I feel like I ought to be there. I want to tell one other thing in regard to my younger days, and you will pardon me for referring to myself and what I have done. Father was very strict with us boys (there were four of us). We were never allowed to go to town on Saturday afternoon like other boys, but it was work from Monday morning to Saturday night. We had corn enough that it took us the whole week to plow it over--we two older boys plowing and the two younger boys hoeing and uncovering.

We had heard that Mr. Paramour was going to have singing school at the Presbyterian church on Saturday afternoon and we worked extra hard to get our corn plowed over by noon on Saturday and while we were eating dinner we said to father that Mr. Paramour was going to have singing school that evening and we wanted to go. My brother was about seventeen and I about fourteen. Father said, "no" and told us to go to plowing again after we were through eating our dinner. He got up and took the two younger boys and went to work. We would have gone too but mother said, "Boys, if you want to go your clean clothes are ready." That was enough. When we had mother on our side we felt pretty safe. So we went and they sung in the "Missouri Harmony" book. We expected father would whip us Monday morning, as he would not whip on Sunday, but he didn't say a word about it and after that we went to singing school every week for three years, and I learned to sing almost everything in the book. I liked to sing in the "Missouri Harmony," but my book has been burned up and I am deprived of that pleasure. I said we went every week, but in the winter time we went on week nights, and on Saturday in the summer.

We kept a large sugar orchard--over three hundred trees--and we always began sugar making in February. There was not an idle day for us then until the corn was gathered the next fall. Father always had something to do indoors if it rained; in wool picking time we had to pick wool; during the crop season, if it was too wet to plow, we would cut brickwood; after harvest was over we would make a kiln of brick, or go into the clearing and roll logs or pick trash and burn it until it was time to sow wheat; when the corn was gathered we would start to school, and during the week father with the horses would tramp out the wheat or oats.

The story of how all the creeks in Shelby county received their names would be a very interesting one. Perhaps no living person knows how most of them were named. My father claims to have named Deer Creek after he had seen a man kill a deer in the stream near our house. He began calling it that name and others took up the name. Mill Creek is said to have been named by Jonathan Paul, who built the first mill on the creek.

"Jiminy" creek, which bears that mild oath handed down from ancient Castor and Pollux is said to have been given its name by Benjamin Love, who formerly lived in Shelbyville. He built a cabin along the stream and lived there for many years. One day his rig was mired down into the stream. It was at this time that Mr. Love is said to have given vent to his aggravation by uttering that mild "cuss-word" "Jiminy."



After that he persisted in calling it that name and people followed his lead.

It might be interesting to hear about the manner in which neighbors visited back and forth in earlier days. Several families would gather together and go to a neighbor's in a body. Usually it was after midnight when they would see fit to start home again. The women found the least time to visit, for by the time they had the work through it was time to go home. That accounts for some of the late stays.

In 1833 the squirrels were so plentiful in this part of Shelby county that people found it necessary to devise means of riding them out, in contrast to the means now employed to preserve the species. In the spring of the year 1833 about thirty men formed themselves into two companies to carry on a contest which was purposed incidentally to rid the country about of varmints. Prizes were given for the greatest number of scalps captured at each hunt. The scalps counted as follows:

Squirrel scalp	1
Hawk Scalp	5
Rabbit Scalp	5
Quail Scalp	3

One time soon after harvest, when the companies met for a match, the woods was full of shooting. Here and there men were bringing down a squirrel or hawk. Out would come a knife and soon a scalp would be resting in the hunter's pouch. The animal's body would be thrown away. At the close of this particular match it would be no exaggeration to say two barrels of scalps were burned. The person whose scalps footed up the greatest number of points was given a prize and the side which gained the greatest number was declared the winner of the match.

The first saw mill built in Shelby County was erected by Harry Moore on Conn's creek opposite Middletown. Later another was built west of Waldron by Elijah Misner, and afterward sold to Isaac Newton. Newton had in connection a carding machine with which he turned out wooden bowls.

The first grist mill in the county was built by William Major a mile above the mouth of Conn's creek. There is not a trace of these mills left.

In 1840 mother and father went to Lebanon, O. for a visit, leaving my brother, nine years old, and myself, fifteen years old, to take care of ourselves. That was in Whig times, and indeed you would have thought so if you had been there yourself. One day there was an immense gathering in Greensburg and one was to be held in Shelbyville the next day. Sixteen Whigs who had been at the Greensburg meeting and were on their way to Shelbyville meeting stopped at our house and wanted to stay all night. They were greatly disappointed to find that we boys were alone and things were not handy to entertain them over night. Finally I told them there was plenty of horse feed in the barn and sent my brother to help them put away their horses. I told them we would do the best we could for them. I went to the chicken house and killed four plump chickens. I got up a good supper for them and also a good breakfast, using four more chickens for that meal. When the men were ready to leave they asked how much the charge would be.



When I told them it would be fifty cents each they protested that father would have charged them nothing since they were good Whigs. I told them I was running the ranch while father was away and they paid me.

Martin Wray, who was in his prime in 1850, and widely known throughout the country as "The Whig Thunderer," made a rousing speech at Middletown during the campaign and met with an answer from a stranger that took him back somewhat. Mr. Wray spoke for more than an hour, roundly scoring the Democratic party, and daring anyone in the audience to answer his arguments. He, of course, did not believe any person present would volunteer. But back near the outer edge of the crowd which gathered about the great box upon which he was hoisted, two strangers had listened in silence.

"Who in this crowd will dare to answer me?" shouted Wray.

"I will," shouted a man on horseback. He climbed off his horse, left it with his companion and elbowed his way through the crowd. He mounted the stand after introducing himself to Mr. Wray, and before he had talked long he had put the former speaker to shame with his eloquence. Wray slipped off the edge of the box where he had been sitting and slunk away into the crowd. It was a standing joke in connection with his name for a long time. The man proved to be George H. Dunn, of Lawrenceburg, then one of the "big guns" of Indiana Democracy. He was a stranger to everyone present.

I remember well an incident in the life of Squire Van Pelt, who died recently. On the morning of the presidential election Mr. VanPelt entertained a large company of St. Omer people and others. He had killed a beef for the company which came to eat breakfast with him. Mr. VanPelt was a little bit annoyed because there were more Whigs than Democrats present. The tables were spread out in the yard. It is doubtful whether there were others beside myself who are still living.

Among the men who deserve mention in connection with the earlier life of the southeastern part of Shelby county, is Herman Avery. His first wife was a VanPelt and four children were born to the union. The family lived adjoining St. Paul, part of the town having been laid out on his land. After the death of Mrs. Avery, Mr. Avery married her widowed sister, Mrs. McClure. At the death of the second wife Avery was again married to Miss Knight, mother of the daughter of Dr. Howard. She died while the first child was very young and Avery was again married to a widow, the only child of the union died. The marriage of two pairs of sisters is rare and in some respects remarkable. Wilson Avery, a son, also married a sister of his first wife who died. He was the father of nine children, one of whom was a girl. He died before his second wife.

I don't think there are any of the second generation of the VanPelts or Avery's living now. There were the Ogdens and Majors who lived in the immediate neighborhood, none of the second generation of which are living that I know of. One may go north and find the McAhrens and Knights none nearer than the third generation of the early settlers except myself living in this section of the county. East of Waldron were the Stears, Beedles, Vanamans, Whiteacres, Wiekoffs, Huffmans,



Creeks, Mooneys and Bartleys, all of whom are gone, and I don't know of a descendent of any of them. Up near Waldron was John Haymond, who came to the county in 1827. He was the father of fourteen children, the result of two marriages. All are dead except Jane Mecals, who lives in Rush county a short distance east of Vienna Church. She is eighty-three years old.

Another family of Haymond's, who I think were cousins, lived on the Michigan Road. There was Thomas, Ahigo, Owen and William, not a trace of whom remains. They went west, taking their families with them. I might go on and name Christler, Snider, Ryland, Rucker, Love, Moore, Ormsby and others. Where are they? Where are the French's? I am the last of that family.

The early settlers of the county used to celebrate Christmas in a peculiar fashion. On Christmas Eve they would start in the neighborhood of St. Omer with the Isleys and would go to the next neighbor's house, where they would fireoff their guns and wake the family, rousing them out of bed and making them go on to the next house. One Christmas when my father had gone to Pennsylvania on business and the neighbors were approaching, my mother heard them long before they reached our house. She roused the hired man and had him build a fire. When the kitchen was filled with people she passed pie and cake around to everyone. They did not go any further, as it was nearly daylight before they left. They were given breakfast and were then prepared to have fun all day.

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#### THE LAST MEETING

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 23rd, about one hundred members of the Decatur County Historical Society again enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. William Parker at their country home, rightly called "OLD STONY." This was the summer meeting.....To a first visitor it was a most unusual and interesting spot. We came upon what might have been a painting of an old English country-side. The low walled stone cottage with overhanging eaves and tall chimneys seemed to have grown there. Parts of the wall were almost hidden by the "spikey" second growth from an old Osage orange hedge.....A lagoon shaped pond partially encircled the West side of the grounds then turned to the North side of this beautiful home.....Knowing that this solid structure was salvaged from the old West School Building, I was not prepared for the professionally-laid masonry used in the building adaptation.....Mr. Parker said that none of the stone had to have further dressing or buffing. The massive fireplace reached to the low living room ceiling, using various lengths of stone to form tiers of shelves for decorative purposes.....The long stepping stone to the front entrance was the one and same approach leading to the early academic days of many of the guests.....I found myself glued to two most unusual portraits in a second room. Miss Betty Parker filled me in on their history. They were handed down from the Kemble family, relatives of the Parkers.....In 1874 the Kembles sent cabinet photographs to France for enlargement and tinting by the charcoal method. This process had no connection with "chromo" sketches made by roving artists in the early eighties. Louis Jacques Daguerre, a French painter and physicist, developed this art.....Mrs. E. A. Porter, of Westport and a



charter member of the Society, was the speaker for the occasion and made an earnest appeal for the restoration of our old cemeteries, outlining the procedure of going about it. She related to an attentive audience some of her many experiences in this endeavor. She further paid tribute to those who had, before her time, started this worthwhile project. Mrs. Porter, very aptly, closed with Shakespeare's self-composed epitaph--

"Blest be the man, that spares these stones;  
And cursed be he, that moves my bones."

Em-Em



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 23

Greensburg, Indiana

December 31, 1964

COMMITTEES

Arrangements

Mrs. Helen Russell

Audit

Mrs. Charles Osburn, ch.  
Stanton Guthrie

Decorations

Mrs. Charles Walls

Display

William Baumgartner, ch.  
William Parker  
Robert Woodfill

Nominations

Frank Marlin, ch.  
Mrs. Mary Rutherford  
Mrs. Paul H. Huber  
Miss Victoria Woolverton

Reservations

Mrs. Loren Garner, ch.  
Miss Gladys Aldrich

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1964

President-----Loren Garner  
1st. Vice-President-Norman Billieu  
2nd. Vice-President-Willard Martin  
Corresponding Secy.----Mrs. Robert  
Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul, Ind.  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K.  
Bussell, 711 North East Street,  
Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Kathryn Taney

OCCASION: Sixth Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election  
of Officers.

SPEAKER: Hon. Milford E. Anness

DATE: Saturday, January 9,  
1965, 6:30 P. M. Fast  
Time (E.S.T.)

PLACE: Presbyterian Church  
N. E. corner Public  
Square, Greensburg,  
Indiana. Entrance on  
Washington Street.

RESERVATIONS

If you have not already been con-  
tacted, please call 663-4970  
(Mrs. Garner) or 663-4621 (Miss  
Aldrich) by Wednesday, January  
6th, if you plan to attend the  
dinner. Tickets are \$1.75 each.

Our speaker, a lifelong Hoosier  
is a lawyer, historian, former  
judge and legislator. Graduating  
from Indiana University 1940 in  
journalism and government, he at-  
tained his law degree in 1954.  
He served in the South Pacific in  
1943-45. Ten years of his life  
was spent operating the family  
hardware store at Metamora.

Known best locally as our own  
State Senator 1947-55, and later  
as Judge of the Fayette Circuit  
Court, Mr. Anness is presently  
practicing law in Columbus. He  
is also the author of "SONG OF  
METAMORIS" a story of "the  
Indian's last stand against a re-  
lentless intruder."

MEMBERSHIP--Open to everyone having an interest in history and his  
heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in ad-  
vance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all  
applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.



EARLY BIRDS- Members can still qualify as EARLY BIRDS by paying their 1965 dues at the Dinner Meeting.

OUR GROWING LIBRARY- Indiana University through the good office of the librarian Mr. Cecil K. Byrd has given a copy of GENERAL JOHN T. WILDER- Williams to the Society. Judge Williams, formerly of the Tennessee bench, found the general a very fascinating character, covering his life from his birth in New York state to his death in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1917. The book is rare and out of print.

HUBER'S HALL- A land-mark at New Point, this two-story frame structure, combined hall, business and dwelling burned to the ground at 2:30 A. M. Sunday morning, last October 25th. Built in 1891 it was the scene for "dances, church socials, school entertainments, graduation exercises, medicine shows, religious meetings, political rallies, oyster suppers and special parties." In all of these years the building later known as the I. O. O. F. Hall contained a grocery or meat-market, or both. Why this particular story? ....Burned was the EDITOR'S birth-place built for his advent by his grandfather.

THE DISPLAY- Again a display is to be a feature of the Dinner Meeting. With the members cooperating, it is planned to show early pictures of them, for your identification. The pictures should be of individuals only, from babies to early childhood. Bring your picture or better still leave it with a member of the committee prior to the meeting.

THE LAST MEETING- By actual count one hundred six good members of the Society descended on the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Rutherford at St. Omer for the annual fall field trip. We say "descended" because at the appointed hour the fall rains set in (after a lapse of several months) and there was no alternative for our hosts, but like the hospitable folks they are- it was "COME IN OUT OF THE RAIN!" Their home was fairly bursting at the seams and had it been fair weather the house wouldn't have held them. This correspondent unable to gain the upper stair, is at a loss to report accurately on Mr. Rutherford's presentation of his subject- a description of the points of interest to be visited- but suffice it to say, that it was very well done, for everyone listened intently. Following this briefing the members and guests loaded in their cars and took off for St. Paul. The route took us past the John Paul home, the stone bridge, Germantown, the present stone quarry, the Catholic church and down-town St. Paul. From there by way of St. Omer again and the Brookville road, we went to Star Church for the social hour. Here the ladies of the church served the usual coffee and doughnuts. For an added touch, a display of family heirlooms afforded conversation pieces for those attending. In spite of the rain, which persisted, everyone had a very enjoyable afternoon.



## RAILROADS - STEAM AND ELECTRIC IN INDIANA

Indiana is a great State. It is not a great State in extent of territory when compared with other States of the Union. But commercially, socially, educationally, religiously, politically, and generally it is the greatest small State that Uncle Sam can boast of within his great domain.

The railroads which lie within her borders have been the principal factor in shaping the destiny and building up the natural resources of the Hoosier State. But before considering the question of the railroads of our own State, let us for a moment look into a little history in connection with the inception of railroads. Let us for a moment stop and look at the great struggles which went on in the minds of inventors and sleepless, restless, and tireless mechanics, in order to perfect the present railroad systems which we so much enjoy at this time in this State and in our Sister States when we visit at a distance.

Some way or other there is a disposition for people of the present generation to look upon the magnificent and luxurious railroad train in a common place, matter of fact way, as though it had always existed.

We use the train and ride upon it with as much indifference as our own little children use the telephone, which now so commonly hangs upon the walls of every dwelling or business house. Let us now stop for a moment in this hour of lightning progress and read a line of very, very recent history in reference to the construction of railroads and see what kind of a cocoon was woven about the chrysalis from which was hatched, through a rapid evolution the modern express train.

I say recent history, and really it is recent when thinking and contemplating the stupendous amount of work that it has taken to bring in to existence the modern railways and their equipments and to bring them to their present high state of excellence and perfection.

The origin of the idea which led ultimately to the building of these now vast railroad systems, was the building of a wooden track to carry coal from some of the coal mines in England. These wooden beams or rails were laid parallel in such a manner that coal carts and wagons would run in grooves so as not to slip to one side, and in this way very much larger loads of coal could be drawn by horse power than over the ordinary wagon roads. These new thoroughfares, called tramways, were made across fields, the owners of the land receiving certain rents for the right of way.

This class of rude tramways or railroads were pretty generally used in all large mining districts as early as 1775. Although these kinds of railroads were in existence, they did not attract attention as being suitable for general traffic. The success of canals not only attracted the public mind in that direction but raised up a powerful canal interest, which viewed the progress of railroads with extreme jealousy and ill will. Indeed I think, with as much ill will as is exhibited by the gentleman who tries to drive a flea bitten pony past a raging automobile which comes down the pike in this present generation, with a heedless driver at the throttle.



The use of cast iron rails led to an improved method of traction. Instead of employing a single large wagon, the plan of linking together a series of small wagons, was adopted - the germ of the modern train.

The next improvement consisted in putting flanges on the wheels instead of the rails, by which great facility of traffic was afforded. The power of locomotion still continued to be executed by horses; but as the railway system seemed to possess immense capabilities of expansion many minds and mechanics labored in devising schemes to substitute steam apparatus.

The invention of the locomotive, like that of railways was the work of successive geniuses and deep thinking inventors. Watt had shown the practicability of stationary steam engines; what was now wanted was an engine that would travel by its own internal impulse. The honor of inventing a self acting steam carriage is allowed to be due to Richard Trevethick, a clever but eccentric engineer. In 1802 he took out a patent for a steam carriage, and this novel machine he exhibited to large crowds of admiring spectators on a piece of ground near London, England. However the Encyclopedia Britannica, from which I am now copying does not state whether Mr. Trevethick called his steam carriage an automobile or not, neither does it state whether he used rubber or iron ties, nor whether or not he had any trouble with the sparker or other vital points connected with the inwards of this novel self-propelling carriage. It does state however that the steam carriages were prohibited from being used on the public highways at this time on account of scaring horses and that for this reason the manufacturers were compelled to abandon the making of steam carriages.

However Mr. Trevethick soon afterwards adapted his steam carriage for the drawing of wagons on railways a duty which it successfully executed on a railway in England in 1804. This was the first locomotive: but it was far from perfect. It drew only ten tons of bar iron at the rate of five miles an hour. Mr. Trevethick did not remain in England to improve his invention nor did the moderate achievements of his machine immediately induce others to make any distinct advance on his ingenious contrivance. For this lethargy there were various causes; but the principal cause consisted in the universal belief among engineers that the locomotive could not be expected to gain great speed, to ascend a moderate hill, or to draw a heavy load unless the wheels were provided with a cog rim to work on a corresponding rack along the rails.

Numerous schemes were made the subject of patents to overcome this imaginary difficulty. Finally in 1811 it was demonstrated by one of the friends of Mr. Trevethick that a locomotive running with smooth wheels on a smooth track, by mere weight and friction could draw a heavy load up a moderate incline. However, rapidity and swiftness was now the great desideratum, and it was attained by using a very simple contrivance - to-wit - that of sending the waste steam up the chimney so as to cause a powerful draft in the fire; a rapid generation of steam was the consequence, and by this appliance, the machine shot forward with an energy hitherto unknown.

But let us proceed to the construction of railroads within the State of Indiana.



The Madison and Indianapolis Railroad was the first in actual operation in what has been known as the North West Territory, and can justly claim to be the first thread of the web which spreads itself over the map of the Northwest today. The interest which attaches to it is unique and at least three fold. Not only was it the pioneer road of this country, but it was, in its earlier days, a part of that internal improvement that sixty years ago came near swamping the State of Indiana, and again the part it played for a decade or so in determining the tide of development in Indiana most strikingly exemplifies the incalculable influence of the railroad in modern civilization. The internal improvement law enacted January 27, 1836 provided for the building at public expense of various canals, turnpikes and other improvements, eight in all and among these a railroad to run from Madison to Lafayette by way of Indianapolis, thus connecting the Ohio and Wabash Valleys with each other and the Capitol. That year the line was surveyed from Madison to Vernon; twenty-two miles. June the tenth 1838 the first consignment of iron rails was delivered at Madison. By November these were laid and the first part of the road completed from the top of the hill at North Madison to Big Creek some eight or nine miles out. The twenty-eighth of that month was set for the formal opening of the road, and the event was to be signalized by a private excursion given to the Governor and other State Officials, to Members of the Legislature and sundry Citizens who were distinguished enough to be included in the invitation. Meanwhile a locomotive had been ordered from Philadelphia, and this had been shipped by way of the Ocean, but was necessarily thrown overboard in a storm. It is not known whether it was swallowed by a great whale or not. However the officials were not to be thwarted in their plans. Over in Kentucky running out of Lexington on some stone sills was a little experimental road, the only one then in operation, west of the Alleghanies, and to this Company the M & I people sent, requesting the loan of a locomotive. In response a diminutive perambulator of eight or nine tons weight, called the Elkhorn was brought to Louisville, thence towed to Madison on a flatboat and hauled by oxen up the hills over the old Michigan road to North Madison where the track began. The excursion went off per arrangement with all the country side, and the town as well, to witness the start and swell the enthusiasm.

To the boundless astonishment of the incredulous, the engine moved off with its load "like a thing of life" and after riding as far as the rails went and back again the dignitaries were taken in carriages down to Madison, where they had a dinner and made speeches.

We of today who are used to all kinds of improvements, can scarcely appreciate the intensity of the interest which was shown on this occasion. It was a new country dominated by the commercial spirit, with undeveloped resources, and no adequate means of ingress and egress. The crying demand was for transportation facilities; upon these the future of the State depended, and the modest little railroad stretching across Jefferson County was the beginning of the fulfillment of roseate dreams.

Soon the State of Indiana went out of the railroad business and the road was leased to private parties and in February in 1843 was sold to a corporation organized under the name of the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad Company, who were to complete it to Indianapolis. The work



was taken up where the State had dropped it. By June 1843 it was completed to Scipio, and by September to Elizabethtown, July first 1844 it reached Columbus and September 8th 1845 found it in Edinburgh. As it neared Indianapolis there was a sharp contest between landed magnates of the young Capitol for the location of a terminus. Large bonuses of land for machine shops were offered the Company and four different localities were mapped out by Mr. T. A. Morris, the Road Engineer, and submitted for consideration. The plat chosen placed the Depot on the line of South Street between Pennsylvania and Delaware, and a part of the original building still stands there.

October 1st 1847 the first train steamed into Indianapolis, where there was a repetition on a still larger scale of the jubilation that had celebrated the beginning at Madison nine years before. The liveliness of the occasion was enhanced by a circus (said to be the largest on earth) which happened to be in town on that date, and it was a grand holiday, the spirit of which can be best conveyed by the following bit of enthusiastic writing from the editorial page of the State Journal of October 4th "At about three o'clock in the afternoon the belching forth of the loud mouthed cannon announced the time of the approach of the cars from Madison. Such a collection of people as thronged the grounds adjacent to the depot, has not been witnessed in these parts since the days of Tippecanoe. They were there by acres stretching far out along the railroad, some upon trees, stumps, fences and everything which tended to raise one squad above another. Soon a dark spot in the distance was descried by those picketed upon the farthest outpost; then was heard the shrill whistle of the locomotive, echoing through hoary forests and over verdant fields, and shout answered shout, as the two iron steeds, puffing and snorting majestically, turned the curve in the road, a short distance from town, followed by two long trains of passenger and freight cars, completely filled by human beings, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs, the men and boys using their lungs in answering back the long, loud huzzas from the people awaiting their approach."

There is more of this animated and intensely enthusiastic editorial, telling of the Governor's speech on rapid transit; of fireworks, together with the remarkable performance of the circus troupe. "And thus says the editor, ended the day at ten P. M. with the public appetite for amusement and excitement satiated." Indianapolis after twenty-five years in the woods, was at last connected with the world.

The first trains on this old road were very crude. The rails were plain bars of iron, one-half inch thick spiked to a continuous stringer of oak three feet apart, which was fastened to cross ties three feet apart with wooden pins, and these ties rested on long timbers known as mud sills. The locomotive at first had no cow-catcher, for the reason that it would scarcely run fast enough to catch a good, swift cow. The engine had no cab, and very often the train would stop for the engineer to replenish the boiler with water from nearby pool or creek.

For six years following its completion the M & I Road was a great commercial outlet for Indiana and its annual receipts steadily increased. Meanwhile the railroad fever raged, and by 1852 there were no less than four or five new lines radiating from Indianapolis. Far



from being competitors of the M & I they were simply feeders to it and poured through that conduit the surplus wealth of central Indiana. Its receipts that year were more than one-half million dollars. However the building of the Bellfontaine and Indiana Central finally broke the back of the old Madison Road. The great and ever growing commercial tide, seeking the most direct outlets, found new channels, and the old one simply dwindled away. Since this the Madison Railroad has been little other than a local branch and its history is a tale that is told.

But you are familiar with the progress extent and improvements of the steam roads of Indiana.

Let us now hurriedly turn about fifty pages in the yearly mile posts of Indiana history and look in awe and amazement upon the modern electric interurban cars which go flitting all over this State at this present time. We now have in Indiana twenty-one electric railroads in operation, having a total of eight hundred and forty-one miles. Of this mileage five hundred and forty-one center in our State Capitol. There is under construction in this State at this time, a total of four hundred and eighty-four miles. Projected for construction just as soon as favorable weather opens up this year are a little over twenty-two hundred miles.

Greensburg hopes to get in the swim and secure three new roads during this year to-wit: The Columbus, Greensburg and Richmond; the Shelbyville, Greensburg and Batesville; and the Madison, Osgood and Greensburg. There is no question but that all of these will be built, that is provided that the promoters can get the necessary funds. However, around the prospects of these proposed roads which mean so much for the future life and prosperity of this City, hangs the golden halo of faith, hope and charity. But let us hope. Hope is the great ingredient in this human heart. An old lady was once known to remark that if it wasn't for hope the heart would break, she was then standing at the open grave of her seventh husband. So let us try to emulate the virtues of this old lady in saying that although Greensburg has been promised Electric Railroads seven times and failed, still we will continue to hope and trust.

The fast multiplying interurban trolley lines are continuing what the turnpike began - the highway that brought the school, the church and the market within reach of the lonely and distant farm - and its purpose is distinctly for good.

Nothing has been such a stimulus to civic pride. The tumble down village that has been satisfied with miry streets, with the absence of sidewalks pulls itself together, because it is brought into sharp contrast with the more thrifty neighborhoods of north or south. Passing to and fro, even the dull and careless eye observes the difference between neatness and squalor, between fields from which the weeds have been taken, the fences that stand trim and sound, gates that hang securely on their hinges and the waste places telling of sloth and neglect at every turn. The family that has cared very little for appearances, when the shining trolley whirls past its door, is moved to better its surroundings. The old hat that has been stuffed in the broken window is taken away and glasses supplied. The walks and



fences are mended, the battered calf skin that the dog has played with for weeks no longer lies about the dooryard.

These signs of awakening intelligence - for taste and neatness are a manifestation of intelligence - are followed by others equally marked and hopeful. The neighbor's house, with its coat of fresh paint, its wire screen doors and the windmill that pumps water into the dairy and the kitchen, kindle the spirit of emulation in the heart of a laggard, who rouses himself with a force of example to go and do likewise. Whole communities through which a trolley line has passed have been almost literally dug up out of the mud, and have been made over. What were the abodes of slip shod indifference have become the homes that suggest the thrift and comfort of New England, with the rich abundance that New England has never known. But the stimulus to outward improvement has done far more, in bringing the advantages of the town or city within reach of the country. It is no longer necessary to send the children from home that they may attend the Academy or the High School. With noon luncheons in baskets, they wait at the cross roads, the flying car halts, gathers them in, carries them swiftly away, and at night brings them back again. The concert, the lecture, the play, are as easily reached from the farm as from the suburbs of the city itself, and some times more easily. The healthy and natural desire for a change, for recreation, is gratified.

The trolley may prove the means of solving the problem - what can be done to keep the boys on the farm - to prevent them from swelling the multitude that crowd the sweat shops and attics, or walk the sidewalks of the town, where they meet destruction.

By the same token it may also be the means of sending out into the sweet, fresh air those who stifle in the overcrowded tenements. Indeed, it has always had this effect, and thousands have taken houses outside the city limits, where they can enjoy the luxury of a separate dwelling, a lawn and a garden. Many have gone still further away, especially in the eastern states, where they found it possible to do business in town, and still help or oversee the cultivation of a twenty-acre farm. With no slavish toil, they have been able to raise their own poultry, have fresh eggs, keep a cow and pigs. The return each evening from the region of staring brick walls and heated pavements is a perennial joy. There is new life in the dewy mornings and evening, in the quiet nights, with stars undimmed by smoke or by glaring arc lights; and the budding and blossoming of the orchard, the ripening of the harvest, the fall of the leaf. All these bring solace and delight - the peace that does not exist in the turmoil and selfish rush and hurry of multitudes.

Besides this purely asthetic side, there is also the social and commercial aspect of the subject. As it brings the city to the country and carries the country to the city, comfortably and swiftly, so, too, does it bind pleasant neighborhoods more closely together.

The farmer's wife, whose existence has been a monotonous round of cooking, dishwashing, baking and mending, can have her club, or attend church or the literary society at the schoolhouse, when she likes. She is no longer dependent on the horses which have a perverse way of falling lame, or being needed, when she plans an excursion, on her own account. She need trouble no one, and the team, free to work or stand



in the stall as the owner decrees. the emancipated farmer's wife, puts on her best gown, ties on her bonnet and waits for the trolley at the front gate, and has her coveted outing asking leave of no one. For no matter on what short allowance she may be kept, with such a convenience at hand to be utilized at pleasure, her commercial talent will be stirred and she will find ways and means, of her own contrivance, of having the price in her pocket, with no one to question or object.

It has been dismally prophesied by shopkeepers in the villages and smaller towns that the trolley will take their trade away - that their customers will flock to the cities, where they will have a larger assortment to select from. It is human nature to content itself with that which is within reach, if it is as good as that which is to be had with greater exertion farther off. We are willing, even, to put up with shortcomings and imperfections, rather than to go out of the way to get something a little better. Since this is true, if an effort is made in the direction of accommodation and excellence combined, there is nothing to fear on the part of the country merchant. The country grocer since the trolley makes him the competitor of his city rival, may have to cultivate enterprise.

He may have to brighten up his store, keep it clean, study to make it attractive, buy what his customers want and are willing to pay for, be courteous and obliging and require courtesy in his employees. And what if he must thus be-stir himself? He is the gainer, not a loser, and, once more, the civilized trolley works a benefit.

But while all this may be said about electric and steam railroads of Indiana - and their present perfection, still I imagine that the modes of rapid and convenient travel are only in their infancy.

Who can deny the possibility that within ten or fifteen years from now that people from the lofty and giddy heights of the air ship window, will look down from their ethereal perch and observe with scorn and contempt, the slow moving electric car, and look upon a steam locomotive with as much primeval curiosity as we do today when we observe an ox team in the unpretentious streets of Millhousen.

--Oscar G. Miller

For one who knew the late Mr. Miller, this article is so typical and sounds so much like the scholar that he was. A thinker and a bit of a prophet, he wrote better than he knew. He was an active member of the Decatur County Historical Society. - ed.

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How do I know my youth has been spent?  
Because my get-up-and-go, got up and went  
But in spite of all that, I am able to grin  
When I think where my get-up-and-go has been

Old age is golden I have heard it said  
But some times I wonder as I go to bed  
My ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup  
My eyes on the table, until I get up



Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself  
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf  
But I am happy to say as I close the door  
My friends are the same as in days of yore

When I was young, my slippers were red  
I could kick my heels right over my head  
When I grew older, my slippers were blue  
But I still could dance the whole night thru

Now I am old, my slippers are black  
I walk to the corner and puff my way back  
The reason I know my youth has been spent  
My get-up-and-go, got up and went

But I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the places my get-up has been  
Since I have retired from life's competition  
I busy myself with complete repetition

I get up each morning, dust off my wits  
Pick up the papers and read the obits  
If my name is missing, I know I'm not dead  
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed

--Title and author unknown.

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FOR SALE

Having sold my farm, I am leaving for Oregon Territory by ox team, and will offer on March 1, 1849, all personal property, to-wit:

All my oxen except Buck, Bill, Tom and Jerry, two milk cows, one bay mare and colt, two ox carts, one plow, 1500 ten foot fence rails, one 100 gallon soap kettle, eighty-five sugar troughs, two spinning wheels, 30 pounds of mutton tallow, one large loom, thirty-two gallons of whiskey--seven years old; twenty gallons of apple brandy, forty gallon copper still, six fox hounds, hams, bacon and lard.

At the same time I will sell my six negro slaves, two men, 35 and 40 years old, two boys, 12 and 18 years old, and two mulatto wenches, 35 and 40 years old. Will sell all to same person. Will not separate them.

My home is two miles South of Versailles, Ky.

T. L. MOSS

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Lois Alley  
Mr. Ivan Abrell  
Mrs. Ivan Abrell  
Mr. Herbert Hunter  
Mrs. Herbert Hunter  
Mrs. Frank LaBarbera  
Mr. Virgil Mills  
Mrs. Virgil Mills  
Miss Alpha Thackery

Mr. Harry A. Thompson  
Mrs. Harry A. Thompson  
Mrs. Glen Huber  
Miss Esta Hiner  
Mr. Herschel W. Davis-Highland  
Place, Ill.  
Mrs. Emerson L. Barclay  
Mrs. Delores Baker-Aurora, Indiana  
Mr. Albert Meyer (485)



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 1 - No. 25

Greensburg, Indiana

August 7, 1965

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. R. E. Puerifoy- Florida(500)  
Mrs. Clara Miller- Batesville  
Mrs. Esther Cramer  
Mr. Larry Fox-Shelbyville  
Mrs. Larry Fox- Shelbyville

\* \* \* \* \*

PARKER'S POND

Somehow the year just isn't complete unless the Society can go to Parker's Pond for at least one meeting and a picnic. The hospitality of the William Parkers mingled with the pleasant surroundings makes an ideal setting for a gala occasion. Of some importance too, is the fact that this is a gathering of the county's finest organization - as you might guess - the Decatur County Historical Society...You will enjoy every minute!

ROUTE FROM GREENSBURG

Follow SR 3 and 46 to the Junction West of Greensburg. Here turn left or South on SR 3. Continue South to the second cross road. (Look for a sign here) Turn right or West on a stone road one quarter mile. LOOK FOR THE FLAG POLE ON THE RIGHT.

ROUTE FROM WESTPORT

Follow SR 3 North toward Greensburg. After passing the yellow flasher at Letts, turn left or West at the second cross road. (Look for a sign here) Continue West on a stone road one-quarter mile. LOOK FOR THE FLAG POLE ON THE RIGHT.

OCCASION: Summer meeting  
DATE: Sunday afternoon, August 22, 1965, at 2:00 P. M. FAST TIME.  
PLACE: Parker's Pond

Dr. D. D. Dickson, local physician, rock hound, curator of his own museum, a collector, and a loyal member of the Society - has written and will narrate a pageant - on EARLY DECATUR COUNTY MEDICINE. He hopes to have the assistance of some of his colleagues, but in any event the good doctor will be there with all of his eloquence, his ready wit and a thorough knowledge of his subject.

PICNIC AFTERWARD

MR. AND MES. PARKER HEREBY EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS TO BRING THEIR BASKETS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1965

President-----John Parker  
1st. Vice-President-----Mrs. Nolan Skinner  
2nd. Vice-President--Orville Pitts  
Corresponding Secy.-----Mrs. Robert Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul, Indiana  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K. Bussell, 711 North East Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Kathryn Taney  
Editor--THE BULLETIN--Paul H. Huber  
Staff-----Mrs. Paul Freeland Smiley Fowler



## THE LAST MEETING

At the April meeting Decatur County's 125 years of newspaper history was compressed into a half hour of exceptionally interesting information by Hubert G. Stuhrenberg, city editor of the Greensburg Daily News. His talk was interspersed with humorous comment and with the recital of amusing editorial matter from the oldtime journals.

In the papers of a century ago, it was brought out, editorializing in the news columns was a common practice. The language was often extravagant and grandiloquent, usually plethoric in praise or vitriolic in condemnation. Due to slow transportation, news reports were often a week or month belated.

Some idea may be gained of the research made by Mr. Stuhrenberg to establish a background for local history when it is known that he described the journalistic situation in England at the time of the earliest American colonization and the publication of the first American newspaper in 1690. That crude chronicle and several that followed it were subjected to official censure, and, in some instances, suppressed.

The speaker's search of historical records, showing the first Indiana paper, The Gazette, established at Vincennes in 1804, led up to Elijah Mitchell's "Greensburg Chronicle" in 1830.

This bold pioneer effort lasted only about a year. The outfit was purchased by Thomas Dowling, who changed the name to "The Political Clarion," and it expired in 1832.

For three years thereafter, Mr. Stuhrenberg said, Decatur County was without a newspaper, although, as the North-South slavery controversy was working up to a white heat, political organizations issued many "booster sheets" that had no relation to real news.

It was in 1835, Mr. Stuhrenberg found, that John Thomson began, rather timidly, the publication of "The Greensburg Repository." Thereafter came William Vallette Coleman with his "Greensburg Courier."

Proprietors of the pioneer papers, the speaker said, found the going precarious. With little equipment, an editor was also the reporter, typesetter, pressman and circulation and advertising manager, and he accepted in payment whatever his news-hungry customers had to spare--cord-wood, bacon, maple sugar, flax, beeswax, feathers, dried fruits, poultry. The news sheets, the speaker said, had been described as "editorially verbose, typographically ugly, intensely personal and violently partisan." And yet, crude as they were, it was a start, and history applauds the effort.

The Repository and the Chronicle changed names and ownership--and sometimes they merged. "The Phoenix" came upon the scene in 1843.

As literacy spread and population grew, the pioneers depended largely upon a Cincinnati newspaper for their general information, but they were eager for "local news," so that various ventures continued to be made to gratify that taste. Merchants, too, needed an advertising medium to promote sales of their goods and tradesmen to advertise their various skills.



Papers appearing on the scene included The Republican, The Democrat (sometimes two of each), a new Gazette and The Greensburg Guard. This last, published by John Covington, has been for many years a missing link in local newspaper history. That is, until Mr. Stuhrenberg uncovered the one existing copy among some old documents which had been preserved in a locked case at the Public Library. These papers had been deposited there when the former historical society's museum was disbanded. Another obscure publication of the time that was brought to light was "The Greensburg Fact."

In the early 1850s, the speaker's record revealed, there began that proliferated journalism which carried through the sixties, seventies, eighties and nineties, and by the end of the century there remained on the scene, out of the many, only the successor to the original Repository--by this time called The Greensburg Standard. This paper, a family heirloom, continued to 1928.

There had been several Decatur Democrats, and from their ashes grew The New Era, an excellent weekly that existed for many years. Republicans merged their interest in The Review, a first-class newspaper before and after the turn of the century.

In this period there appeared The Baptist Observer, a religious organ that attained quite a large circulation. Also The Coming Nation, an organ of the Socialist Party which was said to have reached a circulation of 80,000 copies before its removal to Kansas.

Early in this Twentieth Century Greensburg had four daily papers and four weeklies, with others at St. Paul, Clarksburg and Westport.

A healthy consolidation began when James E. Caskey's Daily News was purchased by Luther D. Braden and E. J. Hancock, who absorbed The Standard and The Review. The remaining Democratic organ, The Evening Times, took over the St. Paul Telegram and was the first county paper to introduce the Mergenthaler type-setting machine. Its first editor was Walter Kaler, followed by Charles H. Ewing, who gave way to Hamilton Mercer, and after him came Smiley Fowler, for a 10-year stretch, and then William B. Porter. With the other papers combined, competition became too keen, and the daily was abandoned. A new corporation was formed, establishing The Weekly Times. After brief editorial careers by Gregory Ewing and William B. Porter, Smiley Fowler became its editor in 1933 and remains in that post today.

Summing up to the present, said Mr. Stuhrenberg, Decatur County now has only two papers, The Daily News, with a circulation of 6,000 and The Times with 800. "Like a weekly letter from home," The Times goes into all sections of this state and to most states of the Union.

In addition to those already mentioned, the speaker cited the names of many others who have been identified with Decatur County's newspapers. These included: Martin Zorger, Martin Blair, Ed Donnell, James E. Mendenhall, Oliver Perry McLain, Allen W. Clark, W. H. Glidewell, Andrew Willoughby, John H. Bobbitt, Noah T. Rogers, Dr. J. W. Rucker and Charles H. Parrish.

This excellent summary of Mr. Stuhrenberg's scholarly paper, is of course by the dean of the local newspaper fraternity, Mr. Smiley



Fowler.....We hope to at some later date print the original article in its entirety, for it was so well done.

Prior to the speaker's address Mr. Leon Pohlman entertained with a program of old songs. His explanation of the choice of selections made us realize the close relationship of music and history. Mr. Pohlman served as his own accompanist and his program brought back fond memories to many of those present.....As in the past there was a most interesting display of books, magazines and papers which helped to make this another outstanding meeting.

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#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SOUTHEASTERN DECATUR COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOLS' 4th OF JULY CELEBRATIONS

The 4th of July Celebration was quite an institution in the Salt Creek Township area of Decatur County for many years. Whether such celebrations were held in other parts of Decatur County or in other sections of Indiana, I do not know, but this I do know--find a former native of this area, in any part of the world, and mention "the celebration," and an immediate kinship is established. No need to say "the 4th of July" celebration. The former Salt Creek Township native knows that. The Celebration was one of the highlights of the year for our area, and was eagerly looked forward to from year to year.

Not too much has been recorded of the origin and early history of the Celebration. The founders left little written or printed material. Mostly, information was passed on by "word of mouth." I have notes left me by my father, the late Ambrose Hickman, in which he makes some mention of the origin. Then from time to time announcements of the yearly event would appear in the Greensburg and Batesville papers, and would, sometimes, include a little of the background history. I have some of these clippings. Also in my possession is a secretary's book from the Mt. Etna Sunday School, dating from June 4, 1899 to November 4, 1900, which furnishes some information. A little background help was found in: History of Decatur County, by Lewis Harding, published in 1915. Help has been given me in establishing dates and places by Mrs. Edna McDermott Vickery, New Point, Indiana and Mrs. Anna Korte Siebert, Batesville, Indiana. Mrs. Siebert is a former Salt Creek Township resident. Much of this is my own personal reminiscence plus dates from the Diaries I have kept. An attempt has been made to list dates, places, and persons as accurately as possible.

My approach has been from the way we did the preparation and the celebration at the New Pennington Methodist Sunday School. Other Sunday Schools may have proceeded along different lines for the preparation, but the actual celebrations were all "cut from the same pattern," and were much the same year after year, no matter where they were held. There may be some who may read this incomplete story, who will recall many interesting things and people that I never knew, but the mention of the Celebration strikes a common note of memory, for all of us, who used to attend, and makes us wish we could attend one more, honest to goodness, Celebration.

According to my father's account the Sunday School Temperance Association of Salt Creek Township was established in 1868. However, one clipping I have states that a meeting of this association was held in



1858 in New Pennington. According to the Decatur County History by Lewis Harding, the temperance movement and Temperance Associations, were quite active in Decatur County as early as 1840. The prime purposes of the Sunday School Temperance Association of Salt Creek Township were: (1) "to celebrate the 4th of July in an appropriate manner"; (2) "to furnish some wholesome entertainment and amusement for the youth" of that area. Incidentally, it became one of the chief sources of income for the treasury of the Sunday Schools, but that was not considered at its founding. The notes indicate that the New Pennington Methodist Sunday School, the Roseburg Baptist Sunday School, and the New Point Christian Sunday Schools were the original members of the Association, and that the first Celebration was held in New Pennington in 1869.

I am indebted to Raymond Carr of New Point for this information. It adds authenticity to the notes left by my father.

Excerpt from "A History of the New Point Christian Church."

"The Sunday School and Temperance Association of Salt Creek Township held its first meeting on July 4, 1868, and continued to hold meetings in 1870 and 1871. We do not know how long these meetings continued. It may be that the Sunday School Fourth of July Picnics which the New Point, New Pennington, Smyrna and other Sunday Schools observe annually are an outgrowth of this Temperance Association. The object of the Temperance Association as stated at that time was: to find amusements that are both interesting and instructive for youth, and to keep them away from the scenes of Vice."

It seems that there is little doubt but what this Temperance Association was the founder of "the Celebration."

In the following years, other Sunday Schools joined, some being located in Ripley County. Some dropped out, rejoined again, some of the Sunday Schools were disbanded--as Mt. Etna was. In more recent years some of the county churches were closed and membership consolidated in nearby towns--as was New Pennington. Usually about five Sunday Schools made up the Association's membership, at a given time. History seems to indicate that New Pennington Methodist Sunday School and New Point Christian Sunday School had the longest continuous membership.

Over the years, at one time or another, the following Sunday Schools were members: New Pennington Methodist; New Point Christian and Methodist; Rosburg Baptist; Middle Branch Methodist; Salem Methodist; Napoleon Methodist, Baptist and Lutheran; Smith's Crossing; Sand Creek Baptist; Zion German Methodist; Smyrna Lutheran; Mt. Etna; Cross Roads Lutheran and Finks Corner Evangelican. There may have been others, but mention of the above was found in one source or another.

It might be appropriate to include at this point my father's reaction, as a small boy, to his first Celebration: "When I was a very small child, my mother and my sister Am (Amoizette) and I walked up the back road, from where we lived, just over the line in Franklin County, to Aunt Margaret Moody's house, on the afternoon of a July 4. Of the year I am not sure. The Celebration was being held in Aunt Margaret's



Woods, just south of the house. The Celebration had been talked about for weeks in our home, and our older brothers had gone earlier in the day and now Am and I were going to get to go, too. Mother visited with Aunt Margaret while we went to the Celebration. It was a grand affair, or so it seemed to two small country children, who had seen little of the world outside our own door yard. We had never seen anything like this before. Flags flying, so many people all in one place, singing on the "stage," and a man gave a "speech" in a thundering voice. But the "stand" was the big thing. Peanuts, candy, lemonade were being sold. I do not recall whether they had ice cream or not, but I would not have known what it was then, anyhow. I was quite well acquainted with peanuts, for our older brothers, sometimes would bring some peanuts home to us after a Saturday night session at "Peanut Hill," a country store, a mile and a half south of our home. I suppose, Am and I had a few pennies to spend, but I am not sure now what we bought. I had heard so much about the Celebration, and I had no idea what it was, but to be there and see it was just plain wonderful. I do recall I was so tired I could hardly walk home, when it was all over. Mother used to tell that on the way home I asked her when we would get to go to another Celebration. Well, I have been to many since that long ago day in my very early childhood, but never one as wonderful as that first one."

Perhaps some description of the actual preparation and happenings at the Celebration will help the reader who was never fortunate enough to attend one, to get a mental picture of the event. Weeks of preparation went into each celebration, the most, of a necessity, being done by the host Sunday School. The host Sunday School was determined by a system of rotation. When a new member joined the Association, that Sunday School had to be a participator at each Sunday School's Celebration, already in the Association, for one time, before the new member could be a host Sunday School. So it was usually four or five years before a new member could be host to the Celebration.

Early in May or June the host Sunday School sent out an invitation to each member of the Association. This was a mere formality, for it was unusual for a Sunday School to decline the invitation. Then the various Sunday Schools planned and practiced the part of the program they expected to furnish for the day's entertainment.

This recalls to my mind a middle aged man by the name of Wildman-- Jimmy Wildman, I believe. He was blind, and quite a musician. It was not uncommon for him to spend a week or so in the New Pennington neighborhood, just prior to the 4th, to drill the choir to a "peak of perfection." Monroe Williams, his sisters Ruth (Neimeyer) and Susie (Myers), Albert Gommel and his sister Nora (Williams) were among the faithful at New Pennington, and will be remembered by many for their parts in the New Pennington programs. The mention of music at the Celebrations also calls to mind some of the excellent musicians of the New Point Christian Sunday Schools--the Marlin families, John Green, the two Starks girls, Cora and her cousin Jennie (McKee). Their musical talents were recognized and appreciated by all.

In the secretary's book of the Mt. Etna Sunday School for Sunday, June 24, 1900, the following account is recorded. The New Point Christian Sunday School invitation to take part in the Celebration, as a



school, had been received by the Superintendent of the Sunday School. It was accepted by Voice Vote and the Superintendent instructed to notify the New Point Sunday School of the same. A committee, consisting of T. J. Hart; Myrtle Paramore; Nora Gommel and Pearl Davis was named to plan the program and train the children. L. P. Hart was elected Sunday School Marshal. Myrtle Paramore was elected banner bearer and Will Shouse was elected flag bearer. Isaac Parmer Jr. was instructed to procure a banner for the Mt. Etna Sunday School. The Superintendent was L. P. Hart and Rosa Hartig was the secretary.

How well I recall that banner!! Joe Henry, who had a sewing machine shop in Batesville, made it. It was blue satin, and the words "Mt. Etna Sunday School" were in gold satin. It was a beauty--or so we thought! Each Sunday School had a similar banner.

Also in the same secretary's book for Sunday July 1, 1900, is this record: "A communication was received from the secretary of the New Point Sunday School withdrawing the singing contest, previously announced for the Celebration." Singing did play a big part in the entertainment at all these celebrations.

While Mt. Etna was a member of the Association for a time, there is no record of it ever having been the host Sunday School.

It was the duty of the host Sunday School to provide the grounds suitable for the picnic, and to provide the "speaker of the Day," plus some other numbers of entertainment. The proceeds from the sale of refreshments and food went to the treasurer of the host Sunday School.

July 3 was a big day, and a busy one for the host Sunday School. The men of the church met at the grove designated as the picnic grove. For several years the New Pennington Sunday School held their Celebration in the Fred Myers Woods--later owned by Ernest Norwald--about one half mile east of New Pennington. I recall at least one celebration in Henry Koenighkramer's Woods about a mile west of the New Pennington Church. The grove had to be cleared of underbrush, ditches and holes filled in, a safe entrance into the woods had to be made, for the various vehicles, a place set aside for hitching the horses, benches set up for the Visitors, the "speakers platform" erected, and "stands" set up for the refreshments. Later when the Sunday Schools started serving chicken dinners a kitchen stand and tables had to be added to the necessary preparation.

The decorations of flags, bunting, and flowers were put up late in the afternoon. If there was a threat of rain, this was put off and done very early on the morning of the 4th. Also on the morning of the 4th the organ from the church was brought out and placed on the Speakers' platform. The "young ladies" of the Sunday School usually did the decorating--with some doubtful help from the "young men" of the Sunday School.

In the early days, the ice cream was made at the grove. Someone had to go to New Point for ice and to borrow Henry Wolfe's ten gallon freezer. Where the other freezers came from I have no idea. A wagon load of sawdust was brought in from the nearest saw mill and used liberally for packing the ice and ice cream. The ladies of the Sunday School brought the ingredients and supervised the mixing of the ice



cream. The young men of the Sunday School turned the freezer. Each family furnished a cake to be sold at the ice cream stand. These had to be baked either early on the morning of the 3rd or late that night. Mixes were unheard of then!

Supplies for the stands for the New Pennington Celebration were usually purchased at Henry Kramer's store at Batesville. Someone had to go to town on the afternoon of the 3rd and bring the supplies out. However, I remember one year the supplies of candy, peanuts, gum, cracker jack, lemons and sugar were purchased at a wholesale house in Greensburg. My father took our team of horses and a spring wagon, and accompanied by Frances Thackery, went to Greensburg for these supplies. They left on the afternoon of the 3rd--it was a very hot day, temperatures in the high 90's--my father arrived home after midnight. The spring wagon, with its precious contents, was put in the barn for the rest of the night, for safe keeping. At early dawn the next morning we were on our way to the grove, where the stands would be stocked and the lemonade made. As early as it was we overtook Pierce Alexander, then a little boy, just at the edge of the grove. He had no intention of missing one minute of the Celebration.

We were fortunate at New Pennington. I remember only one rainy 4th and one cold one. In 1915 the 4th came on Sunday and we voted to hold the Celebration on Saturday the 3rd. At daylight that Saturday morning it was pouring. What could we do but wait! By 9 o'clock the rain had ceased and the sky looked "favorable." By telephone we notified the schools to come on. By 10 o'clock we were in business, with the help of an extra load of sawdust! Not much could be done about cold 4th but grin and bear it. Ice cream sales were down--and America had not yet become a coffee drinking nation.

If we were not the host Sunday School, on the afternoon of the 3rd a committee gathered to trim the "Red Wagon," usually in the church yard, but on extra hot days, in the school yard, for there was more shade there. The Red Wagon was a farm wagon, transformed into a "thing of Beauty" by uprights and crossbars, plus bunting and flags. Perhaps it could be called an ancestor to our present day floats. But it also served a utility purpose. Seats were placed in, on each side of the wagon bed, and it was used to transport members of the Sunday School who had no other means of transportation, to the Celebration, wherever it was being held. Joseph Parmer Sr.'s mules pulled the wagon for many years. I rode in the Red Wagon one year, about 1914, but like my father was in his account, I am not sure of the date. Mamie Ross and I were the two "young ladies" delegated to ride in the Red Wagon with a load of youngsters. I remember I took a little neighbor boy--Isaac Comley, the son of Rose Parmer Comley--with me. Joe Parmer Jr. drove his father's team of mules that day. Shortly after we left the church, bound for Napoleon, it started to rain. The Parmers always came equipped with a tarpaulin, so it was soon put over the top of the wagon. We looked like a covered wagon, only we had a flat top and not a bowed one--and thereby lay our downfall! The water settled in small puddles in each depression, between the crossbars, and eventually dripped through the tarpaulin in a dozen tiny drips. We finally reached Napoleon, drenched through and through, and in multicolors from the red and blue of the bunting. The Celebration had been taken indoors to the Napoleon school house, and was in full swing when our bedraggled group arrived.



There was another custom, followed at each Sunday School for years, called "marching in the School." If the reader wonders why or what--it really was a means of recognizing and honoring each separate Sunday School as it arrived--usually as a body--at the picnic grove. As noted in the Mt. Etna Sunday School report, each school elected a young lady as the banner bearer, and a young man as the flag bearer, and a man as the School Marshal. The host Sunday School did the same, and their marshal was designated as Marshal of the Day. The banner bearers usually wore white dresses, and they, along with the flag bearer and the Marshals wore red, white and blue sashes, draped over the left shoulder, and tied at the waist line, under the right arm. These were their badges of honor. The marshals assisted the Marshal of the Day in lining up the Sunday Schools to march in, took care of the song books for each Sunday School, and saw that everything and everybody were in their proper places at the proper time. Many times the Marshal of the Day rode a horse, and would ride out from the grove to meet an incoming Sunday School in buggies, carriages, farm wagons and headed by their Red Wagon. In a newspaper clipping I have, headed Memory Lane--no date or newspaper heading is on the clipping, but it may have been from the Batesville paper--I seem to recall some such column, this information is taken. "Schools were met at New Point by Charles Marlin and at New Pennington by John Castor. Mr. Castor usually rode a white horse." I do not recall the Marshals of the Day in my time by name, but I am sure many of my time remember how Ira Harding of the New Point Christian Church loved to be the flag bearer. There were many things Ira could not do but he did love to carry the flag!

When the Marshal of the Day brought the word that such and such a Sunday School was near, the host Sunday School lined up at the grove entrance, in a double line, facing each other. Frequently, each member of the host Sunday School carried a small flag. The banner and flag bearers headed the line, then the small children, intermediate group and lastly adults. The Marshal of the Day greeted the incoming Superintendent and their Marshal and banner and flag bearers. The incoming school lined up behind these four, and followed the host banner and flag bearers along the line of march between the two rows of the host Sunday School. They were led to the proper place reserved for this Sunday School to be seated. Then the Visiting banner and flag bearers carried their banner and flag on to the speakers platform, and placed them at a designated place, where they remained throughout the day. This procedure was followed for each Sunday School as it arrived at the grove. Sometimes there was music for the marching--but not always. Arch and Bert Paramore, and Allen Hart of Mt. Etna Sunday School did the honors at New Pennington several years with a fife and drum corps. Some years later the Brown Family Band of New Pennington furnished music for marching and during the day on the program. When Cross Roads Lutheran Sunday School joined the Association in 1930 they had a band that helped march in the schools, as well as giving several numbers throughout the day.

The Superintendent of the host Sunday School usually presided during the day to announce the various members. The program opened with prayer, usually by the minister of the host school. The program generally consisted of musical numbers by the various church choirs, flag drills were popular, recitations by small children, and short talks by visiting ministers; at noon an hour was taken for lunch.



During that hour, the Superintendents of all the Association members met and decided where the celebration would be held the next year. This was announced at the beginning of the afternoon session.

At the Noon intermission families brought out their well filled baskets, and spread their dinner on the ground. Sometimes there were family reunions. I have always associated fried chicken, potato salad and dewberry pie with the 4th of July.

The chief attraction for the afternoon program was the Speaker of the Day. He was usually a minister of note from the surrounding area. I recall a Rev. Westhafer--whom I believe was a Presiding Elder, as the District Superintendent of the Methodist Church was then called. Rev. Claude Sylvester, a young brilliant minister of the Batesville Methodist Circuit; also Rev. Cloyd Goodnight of the New Point Christian Church, who was a student at Butler University. Rev. T. J. Hart, a Mt. Etna school product, and a graduate of Moores Hill College--a popular and beloved Methodist Minister of Southern Indiana; Rev. F. Z. Burkette of the Greensburg Christian Church, Rev. Arthur Gringle of the Bethany Lutheran Church at Batesville and Rev. Wick, a former pastor at Cross Roads Lutheran Church.

This is a copy of a program of 1890, at the Sand Creek Sunday School Celebration held in Cobb's Grove.

10:00 Music by the band  
10:15 Prayer by Rev. Connelly  
10:25 Music by the band  
10:30 Welcome by T. M. Clark, host superintendent  
10:35 Response by George H. Jayne  
10:40 Address by Rev. W. C. Payne  
11:20 Address by Rev. W. W. Reynolds  
11:35 Address by Rev. T. A. Aspy

Noon Intermission

1:00 Declaration by Miss Marie Potter  
Patriotic address by Rev. W. M. Gard

In later days the programs were more varied, with more talents being used. Many people came who spent the entire day listening to the programs. I well remember the feeling of sadness I experienced at two celebrations--the ones following the death of my aunt, Azelia Hickman Davis, and the death of my father's cousin, Louisa Moody Thackery of Salem. Each year these two came, were seated near the front, and there they were throughout the entire program. When each was taken it seemed to me that there was a vacant chair. Mrs. Sammons of Napoleon, was another, as I recall. No doubt, each Sunday School had several of these dear faithful souls. They are among the ones who made the Celebrations into the memories they are for us today.

Games were never a part of these Celebrations. I seem to recall that one time Clarksburg played a baseball game with New Point, before the program of the day started.

Time changes most things and events. In later years the Red Wagon was replaced by the automobile. Marching in the schools was dropped for the schools no longer arrived in delegations. The family picnic



basket was replaced by the chicken dinner served by the ladies of the church. The Celebration, itself, however became more and more a Homecoming Day--although some form of program did continue. Those who had moved away to other areas of the country tried to get back to the Celebration, for well they knew, they would see many old time friends and relatives. As the crowd left the picnic ground the remark most often heard was "See you at next years Celebration." My last time to attend a Celebration was in 1953 at the Smyrna Lutheran Church. Of the many dear friends and relations I saw that day, a number have passed on and I saw them for the last time that day at the Celebration.

In 1956 Napoleon was to have been the host Sunday School but since the neighboring town of Osgood was having a Celebration of a Centennial, Napoleon did not want to have the Celebration and so ended almost one hundred years of Sunday School Celebrations!

Is it any wonder we loved the Celebration and is it any wonder that we wish we could attend just one more! 1969 will be the 100th Anniversary of the first Celebration. New Point Christian Sunday School is the only surviving member of the original Sunday School Temperance Association of Salt Creek Township. What finer way or better time to honor the memory of the past Celebrations, than with one more!

It is hard to pinpoint exact Sunday Schools Celebrations at exact years. Very few of the old Sunday School records have been kept. But from one source or another these dates and places were compiled. I do not claim it is 100 per cent accurate, but as much so as I could determine--for instance I found two accounts of 1876. One gave the Celebration at Middle Branch and one gave it for SMITH'S Crossing. For some years no record could be found at all, but it is almost sure that a celebration was held each year. I am recording only the dates of which I found some record.

1869	New Pennington
1870	Rosburg
1871	New Pennington
1872	New Point--Abner Colson's Woods
1873	Rained out
1874	New Point
1875	Middle Branch
1876	Middle Branch or Smith's Crossing
xxxxxxxxxx	
1878	Salem--Woods adjoining church
1879	Salem (This seems strange that Salem would have it
	two years in succession but I found this information in
	two sources.)
1880	Smith's Crossing
1881	New Point
1882	New Pennington
1883	New Point
xxxxxxxxxx	
1889	Napoleon
1890	Sand Creek--Cobb's Grove
xxxxxxxxxx	
1899	Napoleon--Percy Brown's Woods
1900	New Point



1909 Napoleon  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1912 New Pennington  
1913 Middle Branch  
1914 Napoleon  
1915 New Pennington--Fred Myer's Woods (Sat. July 3)  
1916 Napoleon  
1917 New Point  
1918 New Pennington--Fred Myer's Woods  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1921 New Point  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1932 New Point  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1934 Sand Creek  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1936 New Pennington--Jeff William's Woods  
1937 Cross Roads (Mon. July 5)  
1938 Salem  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1941 New Point  
1942 Sand Creek  
1943 New Pennington--Jeff Williams' Woods (Sat. July 3)  
1944 Cross Roads  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1947 Smyrna  
1948 New Point  
1949 Sand Creek  
1950 Finks Corner  
1951 Napoleon Lutheran  
xxxxxxxxxxx  
1953 Smyrna  
1954 New Point  
1955 Finks Corner  
1956 Was to have been in Napoleon

--(Mrs.) Anna Lee Linville  
April 15, 1965  
Lexington, Virginia

ed-

"But the tender grace of a day that is  
dead  
Will never come back to me."



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226 BATTERTON, Mrs. Vivian 525 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
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374 BAUMGARTNER, Mrs. Wm. B. 324 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
326 BEAGLE, Mrs. Margaret 128 W. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
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435 BILLIEU, Miss Sara 1304 N. Delaware, Apt. 504, Indianapolis, Ind.  
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5 BROWN, Mrs. Miriam D. 220 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
6 BROWN, Robert Dale R. R. 1, St. Paul, Indiana (C)



- 4 BROWN, Mrs. Hannah R. R. 1, St. Paul, Indiana (C)  
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314 BUELL, Mrs. Harry E. Ruth 516 W. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana  
378 BUSKIRK, Mrs. Hayes 529 Hawthorn Lane, Bloomington, Indiana  
109 BUSSELL, Miss Helen K. 711 N. East St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
457 CANNON, Mrs. Myrl Key 10963 Kadota Ave., Pomona, California  
449 CARDER, Mrs. Grace R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
100 CARMAN, Mrs. Martha 725 E. Main Street, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
463 CARR, Raymond New Point, Indiana  
114 CHRISTIAN, Kirkwood R. R. 4, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
115 CHRISTIAN, Mrs. Virginia R. R. 4, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
365 CLARK, Frank L. 323 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana  
306 CLARK, Mrs. Frank L. 323 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana  
137 CLARK, Walter R. R. 7, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
138 CLARK, Mrs. Walter R. R. 7, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
488 COFFAL, Miss Elizabeth 1221½ N. Jefferson, Indianapolis, Indiana  
238 COLEE, Lloyd 602 S. Poplar St., Greensburg, Indiana  
408 COLEE, Mrs. Lloyd 602 S. Poplar St., Greensburg, Indiana  
86 COLVIN, Mrs. Harvey S. 229 W. North St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
409 COOKSON, Mrs. Thomas 409 N. Park Ave., Bloomington, Indiana  
325 CRAIG, Edgar R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana  
329 CRAIG, Fred 767 N. Craig Ave., Pasadena, California  
58 CRAIG, Miss Mary R. R. 3, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
502 CRAMER, Mrs. Esther R. R. 7, Greensburg, Indiana  
248 DAMSGARD, Harold T. 203 Rivermont Drive, Sheffield, Alabama  
29 DAVIS, Calvin D. Department of History, Duke University, Durham,  
North Carolina (C)  
482 DAVIS, Herschel W. 1306 Nyada Place, Highland Place, Illinois  
406 DAVIS, Virgil E. 1234 Franklin Avenue, Brookville, Indiana  
497 DAVIS, Roy A. 1422 N. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, Colorado  
234 DAY, Thomas 501 N. Monfort St., Greensburg, Indiana  
31 DAY, Mrs. Gertrude 501 N. Monfort St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
230 DENHAM, Mrs. Effie Westport, Indiana  
370 DICKSON, D. D. 700 N. East Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
371 DICKSON, Mino 631 N. East Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
338 DODGE, Mrs. Martha 605 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
220 DOGGETT, Denzil Box 142, Rome City, Indiana  
89 DOLES, Mrs. Dorothy D. 303 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
107 DOLES, Mrs. Minnie R. R. 7, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
464 DONNELL, Miss Catherine 210 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York  
204 DONNELL, Mrs. Myron R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
180 DONNELL, Ralph R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
181 DONNELL, Mrs. Ralph R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
271 DOUGLAS, Miss Grace 8 Kessing Drive, Greensburg, Indiana  
63 DOWNS, Dr. I. B. 212 Forsythe Street, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
274 EASLEY, Mrs. Walter 506 E. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana  
68 ECKEL, Mrs. Florine S. Sky Acres Stock Farm, R. R. 1, Oregonia,  
Ohio (C)  
49 ELDER, Clifford O. Paul-Ann Nursing Home, R. R. 4, Greensburg,  
Indiana (C)  
293 ELDER, Orris 338 E. Hendricks Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
292 ELDER, Mrs. Orris 338 E. Hendricks Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
191 EMLY, Mrs. Mamie R. R. 2, Westport, Indiana (C)  
34 EWING, Oscar R. 300 Tenney Circle, Chapel Hill, North Carolina (C)  
328 FATELY, Mrs. Omer Box 96, Flat Rock, Indiana  
7 FAULKNER, Mrs. Gene Westport, Indiana (C)  
36 FAULKNER, Mrs. Ruby Westport, Indiana (C)



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 415 FISHER, Mrs. Leona O. 318 E. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 69 FISHER, William L. 2020 N. Shadeland Ave., Apt. 3, Indianapolis,  
 Indiana (C)  
 264 FOGG, Mrs. Janet 225 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
 430 FOGG, W. C. Jr. R. R. 2, Greensburg, Indiana  
 431 FOGG, Mrs. W. C. Jr. R. R. 2, Greensburg, Indiana  
 384 FORD, Wilbur W. 420 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 385 FORD, Mrs. Wilbur W. 420 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 492 FORFHAN, Miss Virginia 613 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 228 FOWLER, Smiley 324 E. North St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 503 FOX, Larry R. R. 6, Shelbyville, Indiana  
 504 FOX, Mrs. Larry R. R. 6, Shelbyville, Indiana  
 242 FREELAND, Paul R. R. 3, Greensburg, Indiana  
 213 FREELAND, Mrs. Marceil L. R. R. 3, Greensburg, Indiana  
 150 FREELAND, Mrs. Myron 132 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 286 GABHART, Glen E. 135 South Louise, Glendale 5, California  
 245 GALLUP, Miss Edith 1080 Sherman, Apt. 214, Denver 3, Colorado  
 391 GARNER, Loren 618 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 392 GARNER, Mrs. Loren 618 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 313 GATEWOOD, Floyd Westport, Indiana  
 400 GATEWOOD, Mrs. Kathleen Westport, Indiana  
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 269 GAULT, Mrs. Glenn R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
 466 GAYNOR, Mrs. Stephen 180 E. 79th Street New York 21, N. Y.  
 221 GILCHRIST, Mrs. Glenn 420 N. East St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 405 GLASS, Mrs. Arthur 328 Davis Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
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 296 GRAY, Mrs. Lela Owens R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
 498 GREEN, James W. Westport, Indiana  
 499 GREEN, Mrs. James W. Westport, Indiana  
 379 GREER, George W. 311 W. Walnut Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
 380 GREER, Mrs. George W. 311 W. Walnut Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
 315 GRUNEISEN, Mrs. Emil R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana  
 158 GUILKEY, Frank W. 707 E. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 101 GUILKEY, Mrs. Loretta 707 E. Main Street, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 46 GUTHRIE, Stanton 332 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 45 GUTHRIE, Mrs. Marie R. 332 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 203 HALL, Robert D. 151 E. Hoffman Road, Green Bay, Wisconsin (C)  
 92 HAMER, Miss Lois L. 428 E. Main, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 146 HAMILTON, Erle R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 433 HAMILTON, Mrs. Frank 117 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 357 HAMILTON, Ira B. 240 Lincoln Ave., North Vernon, Indiana  
 358 HAMILTON, Mrs. Ira B. 240 Lincoln Ave., North Vernon, Indiana  
 162 HAMILTON, Mrs. Lavelle 231 W. North St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 450 HANNA, Allen R. R. 2, Greensburg, Indiana  
 451 HANNA, Mrs. Allen R. R. 2, Greensburg, Indiana  
 72 HARDING, Miss Madge B. 111 E. 16th St., Apt. 614, Indianapolis 2,  
 Indiana (C)  
 407 HARRISON, Mrs. Glendora 602 N. Franklin Street, Greensburg, Ind.  
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 9 HAUNERT, Mrs. Anna R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 219 HAVENS, Mrs. T. B. 427 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 425 HEID, Mrs. Edwin D. 4705 29th Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 53 HELMICH, Mrs. Albert R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana (C)



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 472 HUNTER, Herbert 115 E. North St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 473 HUNTER, Mrs. Herbert 115 E. North St., Greensburg, Indiana  
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 125 JACKSON, Mrs. Elias R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 44 JARRARD, Earl H. 125 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 262 JERMAN, Mrs. E. C. 332 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 134 JOLLIFF, Paul O. R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 78 JOLLIFF, Mrs. Marjorie R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
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 398 KEEN, Charles M. 23 W. Mzin St., Knightstown, Indiana  
 399 KEEN, Mrs. Charles M. 23 W. Main St., Knightstown, Indiana  
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 106 KIRBY, Mrs. Jessie 323 E. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 404 KIRK, Mrs. Stanton Box 122, Adams, Indiana  
 290 KITCHIN, Mrs. Hal T. 3101 E. Chandler Ave., Evansville 14, Indiana  
 255 KLUEMPER, Henry W. Lyon Co., Rock Rapids, Iowa  
 14 KNOX, Miss Lillian 129 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 261 KUERT, Mrs. John 25508 Country Club Drive, R. R. 2, South Bend, Ind.  
 160 KUHN, Mrs. Chas. A. 602 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 474 LaBARBERA, Mrs. Frank 632 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 90 LANHAM, Mrs. Ethel E. 224 W. North St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 65 LAUDERDALE, Mrs. Leonella 4900 Lincoln Ave., Evansville, Ind. (C)  
 104 LEMMON, Mrs. Willamette P. 320 N. Jackson St., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 155 LINVILLE, Mrs. Anna Lee 203 Lewis St., Morningside Heights,  
 Lexington, Virginia (C)  
 441 LINVILLE, Miss Mary Lou Taylor Hotel, Greensburg, Indiana  
 154 LONGAN, Mrs. Lorette Box 141, New Point, Indiana (C)  
 61 LOPER, Mrs. Adeline D. 342 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 235 LOUCKS, C. E. 131 W. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
 57 LOUCKS, Mrs. C. E. 131 W. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 301 LOUCKS, William E. 131 W. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
 427 LCVELL, Charles R. R. 1, Oregonia, Ohio  
 428 LCVELL, Mrs. Charles R. R. 1, Oregonia, Ohio  
 395 LOWE, Marsh 113 Waldron Street, West Lafayette, Indiana  
 211 LOWE, Walter B. 431 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 210 LOWE, Mrs. Walter B. 431 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 429 LUTHER, Mrs. Lulu 412 S. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 339 LYNCH, Mrs. Lena 510 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, Arizona  
 103 MAGEE Miss Ada L. 224½ W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 16 MARLIN, Charles F. 423 N. Lincoln, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 207 MARLIN, Mrs. Helen B. 423 N. Lincoln, Greensburg, Indiana  
 354 MARTIN, Miss Amanda J. 1209 N. Illinois St., Apt. 29,  
 Indianapolis 2, Indiana  
 182 MARTIN, Dennis 631 E. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)



317 MARTIN, Willard R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana  
 318 MARTIN, Mrs. Willard R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana  
 206 MEEK, Homer G. 524 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 275 MEEK, Mrs. Homer G. 524 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 390 MEEK, Robert L. Sr. 332 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 263 MEEK, Mrs. R. L. Sr. 332 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 136 METZ, Miss Marguerite New Point, Indiana (C)  
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 55 MEYER, Mrs. Jean Perry 334 E. Walnut St., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 460 MEYER, John R. 6146 Washington Circle, Milwaukee 13, Wisconsin  
 485 MEYER, Albert New Point, Indiana  
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 199 MIERS, Mrs. Roy H. R. R. 4, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
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 50 McKEE, Mrs. H. S. 190 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
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 277 NADING, Mrs. Jeanette 207 W. First St., Greensburg, Indiana  
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 447 OGDEN, Mrs. Harold B. 515 N. East St., Greensburg, Indiana  
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 343 OLJACE, Mrs. Donald R. R. 5, Park Road, Greensburg, Indiana  
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 436 PARMER, Mrs. Roll R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana  
 452 PATRICK, Raymond 325 E. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana



453 PATRICK, Mrs. Raymond 325 E. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana  
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 240 PEEK, Mrs. V. T. 323 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
 500 PEURIFOY, Mrs. R. E. 1104 Elm Avenue, Sanford, Florida 32771  
 159 PITTS, Orville R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 256 PLATT, Gilbert 610 N. Lincoln St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 257 PLATT, Mrs. Elinor T. 610 N. Lincoln St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 22 PLEAK, Carroll D. R. R. 3, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
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 297 PORTER, Mrs. Jonathan Westport, Indiana  
 375 POWELL, R. R. 6030 Joyce Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana  
 225 POWELL, Mrs. R. R. 6030 Joyce Lane, Indianapolis, Indiana  
 330 POWNER, Russell 215 W. First Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
 331 POWNER, Mrs. Russell 215 W. First Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
 417 PUMPHREY, Miss Mabel L. 128 W. Washington St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 79 RALSTON, Arthur R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 80 RALSTON, Mrs. Lydia R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 127 REED, Mrs. Alice J. 135 W. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 95 REED, Mrs. Francis W. 177 N. Michigan Avenue, Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 445 REED, Mrs. Pansy 420 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 151 RENIGER, Cleo 321 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 152 RENIGER, Mrs. Harriet M. 321 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 259 RICHARDS, Mrs. Elbert R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana  
 368 RICHEY, Gilbert T. 8400 E. 75th Street, Indianapolis 26, Indiana  
 369 RICHEY, Mrs. Gilbert T. 8400 E. 75th Street, Indianapolis 26, Ind.  
 129 RITTER, Mrs. Beatrice M. 310 Golden Hills Drive, Menlo Park,  
 California (C)  
 444 ROHLFING, Wayne E. 330 N. East St., Indianapolis, Indiana  
 183 ROLFES, Raymond 610 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 346 ROMINE, Floyd R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
 347 ROMINE, Mrs. Floyd R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
 130 ROSS, Mrs. Ethel Yale 502 W. Pike Street, Martinsville, Ind. (C)  
 108 RUSSELL, Mrs. Helen 228 E. North St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 493 RUST, Oskar D. 420 E. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 494 RUST, Mrs. Oskar D. 420 E. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 387 RUTHERFORD, E. V. R. R. 1, St. Paul, Indiana  
 388 RUTHERFORD, Mrs. Irene S. R. R. 1, St. Paul, Indiana  
 149 RUTHERFORD, Mrs. Roy 231 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
 285 SAMUELS, Mrs. C. D. 327 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
 85 SAMUELS, Miss Martha 327 E. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 201 SCHEIDLER, W. J. Box 149, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 51 SHANNON, James H. 222 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 233 SHANNON, Mrs. James 222 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 40 SHANNON, Mrs. Marie Clarksburg, Indiana (C)  
 161 SHELHORN, Joe R. R. 1, St. Paul, Indiana (C)  
 437 SHOCKLEY, Mrs. Ruth Hillis 475 Adrian Place, Macon, Georgia  
 456 SIEFERT, E. J. Treasure Island, R. R. 2, Leesburg, Florida  
 495 SIEFERT, Mrs. Elmer J. Treasure Island, R. R. 2, Leesburg, Florida  
 184 SKINNER, Mrs. Nolan 720 N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
 284 SMALL, Roy C. 120 W. North St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 327 SMIRNOFF, Mrs. Margaret M. 6719 Washington Place, Bayshore Gardens,  
 Bradenton, Florida  
 440 SMITH, Mrs. C. Emery 130 E. North St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 348 SMITH, Mrs. Jessie R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana  
 243 STEVENSON, E. C. 226 W. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana  
 418 STYERS, Harold R. R. 2, Greensburg, Indiana



185 TANEY, Miss Kathryn 221 N. Ireland St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
442 TAYLOR, Mrs. Emma R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana  
247 TAYLOR, Mr. Herbert C. 233 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
279 TAYLOR, John Paul R. R. 1, Greensburg, Indiana  
311 TEMPLETON, Mrs. Anna L. 202 W. Central Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
477 THACKERY, Miss Alpha E. R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana  
64 THACKERY, Mrs. Louise M. R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana  
349 THACKERY, Walter 840 Barachel Lane, Greensburg, Indiana  
350 THACKERY Mrs. Walter 840 Barachel Lane, Greensburg, Indiana  
487 THOMAS, Hubert 222 W. Washington St., Shelbyville, Indiana  
478 THOMPSON, Harry A. Westport, Indiana  
43 THOMSON, Miss Mary E. Peabody Home, North Manchester, Indiana (C)  
422 THOMSON, Thomas O. 103 $\frac{1}{2}$  N. Broadway, Greensburg, Indiana  
416 THOMSON, William O. 2 Rollins Place, Boston 14, Mass.  
71 THORNBURG, Merritt C. 525 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Ind.(C)  
84 TILLSON, Miss Florine A. 614 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
272 TILLSON, Miss Marguerite 614 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, Ind.  
458 TONYES, Mrs. Walter Milroy, Indiana  
99 TOWNSEND, Mrs. Frank 322 E. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
295 WALLS, Charles A. 617 E. Main Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
294 WALLS, Mrs. Charles A. 617 E. Main Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
66 WAYBRIGHT, Mrs. Amy Edgewood Acres, R. R. 7, Greensburg, Ind. (C)  
320 WEBSTER, Albert Lee 128 W. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana  
321 WEBSTER, Mrs. Albert Lee 128 W. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana  
70 WEISNER, Clifford 631 West St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
351 WETNIGHT, John 126 W. Mechanic St., Shelbyville, Indiana  
352 WETNIGHT, Mrs. John 126 W. Mechanic St., Shelbyville, Indiana  
280 WILLIAMS, Mrs. C. B. 315 E. Hendricks St., Greensburg, Indiana  
139 WILLIAMS, Dwight W. R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
140 WILLIAMS, Mrs. Dwight R. R. 6, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
300 WILLIAMS, Mrs. J. D. 914 Forestdale Rd., Royal Oak, Michigan  
281 WILLIAMS, Mrs. Shirley A. 212 Newsom Ave., Columbus, Indiana  
25 WIRT, Mrs. James B. Methodist Home, Franklin, Indiana (C)  
94 WOOD, Mrs. Jessie R. 406 E. Main St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
56 WOODFILL, Robert M. 434 W. Walnut St., Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
353 WOODFILL, J. Van 185 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Indiana  
26 CURNICK, Mrs. H. Robert 1621 S. 6th St., Terre Haute, Indiana (C)  
232 WOOLVERTON, Miss Victoria 203 N. Michigan Ave., Greensburg, Ind.  
489 WRICHT, Harry R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
490 WRIGHT, Mrs. Mary R. R. 5, Greensburg, Indiana  
59 WYANT, Mrs. Margaret R. R. R. 8, Greensburg, Indiana (C)  
403 ZOLLER, Miss Florence L. 5555 Sheridan Rd., Apt. 1216-A, Chicago 40,  
Illinois

(C) Charter member  
(LIFE) Life member



MORE ABOUT THE PICNIC - Although some chairs and tables will be provided, it has been suggested that you bring extra chairs and card tables, if you have such.

THE USUAL DISPLAY - Bring something of interest, be that a book on home remedies, an electric belt or a bottle of "BITTERS." But leave your ailments at home.

OUR SOCIETY - We hear much about phenomenal growth in industry, science, the arts, even space programs involving races to the moon. Perhaps as a society, we should take a look at our own phenomenal growth, and ask ourselves to what this may be attributed.....The Historical Society was reorganized in 1959. Mrs. Winston Ball has the distinction of holding the number one membership card. This year (1965) card number five hundred was issued to Mrs. R. E. Peurifoy (Ethel Brown) of Sanford, Florida.....There may be many reasons why we have grown so rapidly and consistently through these six years. Some may believe that it is due to our varied programs. From Mrs. Howard's LIFE ON A RIVERBOAT to that of Mr. Stuhrenberg's EARLY NEWSPAPERS OF THE COUNTY, we have been entertained and informed. On our field trips, to mention a few, we have followed the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD, looked at covered bridges, the site of the HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER, and explored the locale of the early stone industry both around Harris City and St. Paul.....We have also eaten well. Our picnics have proved the right of fame for Hoosier cooking. We have been regaled with coffee and doughnuts at the end of our field tours; and at our last big meeting of the year, one of the highlights is a bounteous and lavish dinner. What fun these occasions have been! They are informal, giving us a chance to know our fellow members better. Another feature of these meetings has been the exhibits. We have looked at Civil War guns, toy brass bedsteads, wooden toy trains. The formal part of the program at these affairs has always been of outstanding merit.....Last but not least is the BULLETIN. The publication has served to weld our group together, those from here and those far away. It is well written and produced, thanks to our able editor and his assistants. Besides reports and news items, there is always a worth-while article on local history. Certainly the interest and support of so many members from distant states, is due largely to this excellent news sheet.....And now, possibly we have looked back long enough on these six years, and praised ourselves as much as can be done modestly. It has been said - "The past is prologue." What a future lies before us!

M. R. H.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA

20 Mr. John E. Parker  
R. R. 5  
Greensburg, Indiana





/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 26

Greensburg, Indiana

October 1, 1965

EARLY BIRDS

As the older members know, it is time for the EARLY BIRDS. These are the ones who pay their 1966 membership fee early and in advance. This saves postage, time and confusion later. If you attend the fall meeting, be an EARLY BIRD!

\* \* \* \*

THE OLD GRAVE YARD

Some eight years since, the ladies of this city at the suggestion of the REPUBLICAN, raised by contribution, sufficient funds to enclose the old Grave Yard. In passing this "City of The Dead," a few evenings back, we observed that this enclosure is much out of repair, and unless attended to soon, will be of little use. Already at some points hogs can pass in and out at their pleasure. Respect for the memory of departed ones demands that this, their resting place, should be cared for. Besides this, the ground is situated where strangers passing through see it, and its dilapidated appearance, is calculated, to give them an unfavorable opinion of our city.....Would it not be well for the City to take this matter under its care, and see that the fence is kept in proper repair, and the grounds beautified? A very little money expended in planting trees and shrubbery and otherwise improving this burial place, would change it from a disgrace to an honor and ornament to our City. What say you?

GBG. STANDARD - April 30, 1868

ed - This was 97 years ago!

OCCASION: Fall Field Trip  
DATE: Sunday afternoon  
October 24, 1965  
TIME: 2:00 P. M. - EST.  
PLACE: St. Mary's Church  
Millhousen, Indiana

The seventh annual fall field trip will take us to Millhousen. All members, guests and friends are to meet at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Millhousen at 2:00 P. M. for instructions as to the route to be followed..... This should be an interesting and informative meeting as this good community abounds in local history. The town being situated on Squaw Run, suggests its Indian background. Its architecture is as charming as it is rich in ecclesiastical history. This community first settled in 1821 has everything for the local historian. Mr. Will Scheidler, a charter member of the Society and a native of Millhousen heads up the committee on arrangements. With his knowledge and enthusiasm, no one is better qualified to introduce us to this part of Decatur County. ....A social hour at the Knights of St. John Hall with the traditional coffee and doughnuts served by the Ladies Auxiliary will be the climax of the day. So like the postman - come wind, hail, rain or snow - keep to your "appointed rounds." Be there! EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dale F. Parker  
Mrs. Dale F. Parker  
James C. McLaughlin  
Mrs. James C. McLaughlin  
Robert Rosecrans  
Mrs. Robert Rosecrans  
Mrs. C. W. Bartholomew  
Mrs. Frank Hargitt  
Raymond C. Moeller  
Mrs. Raymond C. Moeller  
Dale W. Miers  
Mrs. Dale W. Miers  
Arthur Wright  
Mrs. Arthur Wright  
Tom Porter - Gbg. --519

OUR GROWING LIBRARY - Miss Margaret Link of Indianapolis has given the Society three scrap books which were kept by her sister, now deceased, Mrs. Flora Link Howard. Thank you, Miss Link for this fine contribution.

LOOKING BACKWARD IN THE (INDPLS.) NEWS - Aug. 14, 1965

Seventy-five Years Ago (1890)

A log fire ignited a subterranean bed of natural gas near Waldron in Shelby County and caused a tremendous explosion that ripped up 10 acres of land and blocked Flat Rock River, causing the current to flow upstream. Great rocks and trees were hurled skyward. All wildlife and fish were destroyed and graves in a nearby cemetery were disturbed.

ed - Charles Major described this incident much more dramatically in THE BEARS OF BLUE RIVER. See Mrs. Everson's story in the March 13, 1965 issue of the Bulletin.

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1965

President-----John Parker  
1st. Vice-President-----Mrs. Nolan  
Skinner  
2nd. Vice-President--Orville Pitts  
Corresponding Secy.-----Mrs. Robert  
Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul,  
Indiana  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K.  
Bussell, 711 North East  
Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Kathryn Taney  
Editor--THE BULLETIN--Paul H. Huber  
Staff-----Mrs. Paul Freeland  
Smiley Fowler



THE COUNTRY DOCTOR

Listen my children  
And you shall hear  
Of the greatest man  
Whose home was right here.

On him they'd depend  
Just like an old Clock.  
That's right, you guessed it  
They just called him "Doc."

Maybe on Horseback  
He'd rush through the wood  
To help a sick friend  
With all of his good.

"The stork is coming  
Right over the Hills  
Hurry up -- Doc  
To Joseph McGill's."

Sometimes his buggy  
Cut deep in the mud  
And tore off the step  
With an ugly thud.

Sometimes he would sit  
By the bed all night  
Till disease and pain  
Took off on their flight.

His powders he'd roll  
In crumbs of light bread,  
And fix them so neat  
Beside your sick bed.

If he lacked in Skill  
He excelled in Love;  
Meeting all anguish  
With peace from above.

When sounds of his "taps"  
Fades far o'er the hill  
I'll remember much,  
But most his good will.

The master judging  
At the setting sun  
Will smilingly say,  
It was so well done.

D. D. D.



## PIONEER LIFE IN GREENSBURG

The early settlers in Greensburg were sturdy, industrious, religious and far-sighted. They must have intended that their sons should grow up to be presidents, or at least politicians, for they provided log cabins for their children to be born in.

Let us not cast aspersions or other waste material on the simple life of those days. There was no snobbishness then -- one man was just as good as another, if not better. A man who drove an ox cart was as highly esteemed as the driver of a Cadillac. There was no worry over seat belts, and back-seat drivers were not urged to "leave the driving to us." No one complained that his neighbor's radio was too loud.

In those days no one was denied the right to work.

Woman suffrage had not been invented at that time. But women, while not permitted to vote, were allowed the special privilege of working on Sundays: The rigorous Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian rituals were abrogated to secure celestial immunity for housewives and chicken dinners for the preachers. All other labor ceased on the Sabbath, no garages or other places of business being permitted to open.

Pioneer ministers held a tighter rein on their congregations than they do now. Dancing was strictly taboo in any place of worship, and few places permitted any kind of music. A boy who dared to enter a church with a saxophone would have been tossed over into the next voting precinct. A girl who could have done a tap-dance wearing the bull-hide shoes that were worn in those days would have been a physical phenomenon. The preachers strongly condemned gambling, but they frequently gave reports on various "futures."

Women did not go in for clubs in pioneer Greensburg, although some were said to be skillful in the use of broomsticks and rolling pins. Styles were quite different from present-day modes. Women wore their dresses much longer then -- often as much as two or three years longer.

A great many of our modern improvements -- mechanical and electronic gadgetry, educational, social and commercial marvels -- had not been invented at that time, including the threshing machine, the sewing machine, the refrigerator, the telephone (it was believed sufficient then to tell-a-woman), radios, child psychology, Jack Benny, viruses, insurance agents, drag racing and potato chips.

In the pioneer cabins the latch-string was always out -- in case Avon should be calling.

- Smiley Fowler

MEMBERSHIP - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.



## THE SUMMER MEETING

The afternoon of August 22nd found over two hundred members and guests of the Society enjoying again the hospitality of the William Parkers at OLD STONY, their home southwest of Greensburg.

The meeting was arranged as a tribute to early doctors in Decatur County for their contribution to the life of the pioneers. We are greatly indebted to Dr. Dale D. Dickson for his time and effort in writing and narrating a pageant portraying the service of the medical profession during the Civil War era.

The pageant was staged in an area east of the Parker home where a two-story log cabin is being restored. The timbers for the lower floor had been placed in position, and served as a stage, while the other timbers served as an out-door arena.

From somewhere up the pioneer trail a spring wagon "express" brought the first resident doctor to Greensburg. Mrs. Justus Rich, portrayed by Mrs. Frank Clark, lived and practiced medicine at her home on the northeast corner of the Public Square, the present site of the Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Dickson impersonated Dr. Selmers of Columbus, author of the first medical book in Indiana. He was assisted by John E. Clemons, who took the role of a young man who was studying to become a doctor. At that time Dr. Dickson pointed out, an eighth grade education was regarded as the necessary requisite for study at the office of a physician.

Because numerous doctors were serving as surgeons in the Union Army, he pointed out how families were encouraged to use home remedies made from plants in the vicinity. Using an iron kettle over a fire they demonstrated the preparation of a remedy, which Dr. Selmers regarded as good for several purposes.

As a patient in need of dental assistance, Elvin Cruser came to the office of the early physician on an old-time bicycle with a large front wheel. Amid yells and bodily exercise of the suffering patient, Dr. Selmers provided a quick "cure."

Old home remedies of the Civil War era were read by Mrs. Elmer Zeigler, while William Parker "walked" his bicycle up the trail in an impersonation that left little to the imagination. He recited the names of many well known doctors in Decatur County during the period from 1821 to 1870. During that time the county had 111 physicians.

Dr. Dickson listed the Decatur County doctors who served in the Union Army. He told the difficulties they labored with, including methods of curbing infection. Burning of an improvised confinement building illustrated how they destroyed their buildings when they became too infected to be considered usable. He concluded his program by reading an original poem "THE COUNTRY DOCTOR." As a finale to the pageant, "Taps" were sounded.



Thereafter Miss Joyce Allen delighted the crowd with a group of folk songs, accompanied on the electric guitar by her brother, James Allen.

Tea was served during the social hour, and many members took advantage of the invitation of the Parkers for a picnic dinner near the lake.

John E. Parker, president of the society explained some of the historic souvenirs which the Parkers have collected. On display were weapons of the Civil War, many interesting old medical books and instruments. But the thing that reactivated the "boy" in every man was the old Huber steam thrashing engine that Carol Pleak brought prior to the meeting.-----And every woman tried to take home one of the Parker's dipper gourds!

Even the weather-man co-operated in making this one of the most interesting meetings, although it poured in Greensburg the rain spared the Parkers. Not a drop fell on "Old Stony." It was another day "to long remember" thanks to the Parkers and all of the others!

M. L. F.

ed - Louis Whipple with his "turnout" of the two ponies in shining harness and a glittering wagon, was just the last word in horse-drawn equipage. Elvin Cruser's riding his bicycle (with the large front wheel) up the path was no ordinary achievement either!

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#### PEOPLE'S SAY SO

Editor,  
Daily News:

As I recently read Mr. Fowler's list of doctors from the past, I was reminded of interesting memories I have of two of them; memories which I believe are worthy to recall in this critical and exacting world of today.

Dr. W. A. Bracken was a doctor for a part of our family for many years. We often went to his office on the north side of the square. There we found him sitting in a comfortable rocking chair by the side of his table. If he were not there you grabbed a big brass hand bell on the table and rang it vigorously until someone came from the rear.

If he were there he paid no attention whatsoever to you, until he had finished the article he was reading. Then in a gruff voice would inquire, "What do you want?". He was a fine looking man, stately and pompous in bearing, with a long beard, and soft brown eyes which entirely belied the sharp brusque voice that greeted you.

He had sent one of my aunts to Colorado for tuberculosis when it was only a gamble if climate or anything else could help. But in a couple



of years, she returned greatly benefitted. Taking me along, she went to thank Dr. Bracken for his excellent advice.

As usual we found him reading, and patiently sat down to wait. Finally he scowled at us over his glasses, and my aunt went over and knelt beside his chair. He immediately recognized her, put his arms about her and kissed her again and again, in joy for her unusual recovery. Ever after when people would recall "the gruff and crabby Doctor Bracken" it was this scene which returned to my mind.

Dr. C. A. Covert, too, had the name of being eccentric. But my father-in-law, Frank Batterton, the druggist, had filled Dr. Covert's prescriptions for many years and had high regard for his methods. So when severe illness came to our family he was called.

Day after day he called faithfully on his patient. Sometimes he was very talkative, full of instructions and jokes at which he quietly chuckled. Other times he sat silently by the bedside, clicking his thumb nails, then suddenly jumped up to leave.

The nurse, however, was always disturbed because after each visit she would find three or four grains of popcorn on her nice clean floor. No one could explain their appearance until one day a friend said, "Why, of course he could."

At Andy Rader's saloon on South Broadway there was always a large bowl of popcorn on the bar. As the Doc sought his morning eye opener, he evidently stocked up on popcorn which he dribbled about from house to house.

Well--maybe so--but during the serious climax of our illness every night in the wee small hours we would hear a little fumbling at the door, and in would slip the little Doc to look his patient over.

Dr. Covert was a little short stocky man with sleepy blue eyes and florid complexion, especially the nose. He always wore a wig which was a light reddish color, and it was usually awry.

His office at one time was upstairs in the present Decatur Bank building, reached by an outside stairway. One morning while descending he missed a step and fell end over end to the bottom, where he lay with wig, hat, and medicines in a heap. When friends (including my father-in-law) rushed to pick him up, he arose, and hastily donning his wig said, "Oh! H--- that's the way I often come down stairs."

These men had their funny little ways--their idiosyncrasies--even as you and I, but deep within they carried hearts of gold. Although they have long since had their day, we fondly cherish their memories.

(s) Floy P. Batterton

ed - This reprint from the Greensburg Daily News of January 16, 1965 is offered particularly for the out-of-town members who might not have had an opportunity of reading it.



## PACIFIC TOURIST GUIDE Across the Continent

**PRAIRIE FIRES**--During the first night's ride westward from Omaha, the traveler, as he gazes out of his car window (which he can easily do while reclining in his berth) will often find his curious attention rewarded by a sight of one of the most awful, yet grandest scenes of prairie life. The prairies, which in the day-time to some, seemed dry, dull, uninteresting, occasionally give place at night; to the lurid play of the fire-fiend, and the heavens and horizon seem like a furnace. A prairie on fire is a fearfully exciting and fear-stirring sight. Cheeks blanch as the wind sweeps its volume toward the observer, or across his track. Full in the distance is seen the long line of bright flame stretching for miles, with its broad band of dark smoke-clouds above. As the train comes near, the flames leap higher, and the smoke ascends higher, and on their dark bosom is reflected the fires' brilliantly-tinged light. Sweeping away for miles towards the bluffs, the fire jumps with the wind, and the flames leap 20 to 30, or more feet into the air, and for miles brighten the prairies with the awful sight. We have never seen anything of prairie life or scenery possessing such majestic brilliance as the night glows, and rapid advances of a prairie fire. Far out on the prairies, beyond the settlements, the prairie fires (usually set on fire by the sparks from the locomotives) rage unchecked for miles and miles, but nearer to the little settlements, where the cabins have just been set up, the fire is their deadliest and most dreaded enemy. No words can describe, no pencil paint the look of terror when the settler beholds advancing toward him the fire-fiend, for which he is unprepared and unprotected. When the first sign of the advancing fire is given, all hands turn out; either a counter fire is started, which, eating from the settler's ranch, in the face of the wind, toward the grander coming volume, takes away its force, and leaves it nothing to feed upon, or furrows are broken with the plow around the settler's home. The cool earth thrown up, and all the grass beyond this is fired, while the little home enclosed within, is safe. A curious feature of prairie fires is, that the buffalo grass, the next season, is darker and richer than ever before; and lower down, in sections where the prairie fires are carefully kept off, trees, shrubs, bushes, etc., of many varieties, grow up spontaneously, which never were seen before. So long as prairie fires rage, nothing will grow but the little tufts of prairie grass. Wherever the prairie fire ceases or is kept restrained, vegetation of all description as far west as the Platte, is completely changed. In the fall of the year these fires are most frequent; and creating a strong current or breeze by their own heat, they advance with the rapidity often of a locomotive, 20 or more miles an hour, and their terrible lurid light by night, and blackened path left behind, as seen next day by the traveler, are sights never to be forgotten.

In the lower river counties a prairie fire often originates from the careless dropping of a match, or the ashes shaken from a pipe. The little spark touches the dry grass like tinder--the constant breeze fans the little flame, and five minutes after it has covered yards. The loss to tillers of the soil is often appalling. One of General



Sherman's veterans, in describing a prairie fire to a visitor, raising himself to his full six feet height, and with eye flashing as in battle excitement, said: "Mr. C., if I should catch a man firing the prairie at this time, as God helps me, I would shoot him down in his deed." A traveler riding on the prairie said, "only a few miles from me an emigrant, traveling in his close-covered wagon "with the wind," was overtaken by the flames coming down on him unseen. Horses, family, wagon, were all destroyed in a moment, and himself barely lived long enough to tell the tale. Nearly every night in autumn the prairies of the boundless West, show either the near or distant glow of a fire, which in extent has the appearance of another burning Chicago.

ed - We seldom hear the term "prairie" any more. Decatur County had its "flats" and "slash" but no prairie. Was the area around Fowler, Indiana considered as being prairie country-- the editor would like to know?



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 27

Greensburg, Indiana

November 20, 1965

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. David Porter--Osgood  
Mrs. David Porter--Osgood  
Miss Marilyn Horan  
Mrs. Dorothy Rondeau  
Mrs. Ray Fulton (524)

\* \* \* \* \*

The Sweets come to us as a team! Their subject- EARLY AMERICAN LIVING. Mr. Sweet a graduate of Butler University and Vice-Principal of Orchard School, Indianapolis, has since 1933 operated Acorn Farm as a summer camp for boys and girls....Mrs. Sweet (Dee) also an alumnus of Butler, founded the Girls Group of Acorn Farm in 1934. A former National Vice-President American Women in Radio and Television, she also did a radio stint for 10 years on WFBM and WISH....Their idea of an Indian village, later a log cabin and then a country store (1840 period) led to the Acorn Farm Antique Shop since so many people wanted to buy things like those displayed in their museum. The Shop to all appearances is a new colonial home, having twelve rooms for antiques- four of which are model rooms. Here one will find furniture of all periods, primitives, china, glass, silver, prints and oil paintings- all nicely shown, immaculate and in good taste....We look forward to hearing Mr. and Mrs. Sweet with a great deal of anticipation, for we know they have something of interest to say- not only to the distaff side but to the men as well.

OCCASION: Seventh Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers.

SPEAKERS: Herb and Dee Sweet of Carmel, Indiana

DATE: Saturday, December 4th, 1965 at 6:30 P. M. Fast time (EST)

PLACE: Greensburg High School, 505 E. Central Avenue. Entrance on Lathrop St. opposite Gymnasium

RESERVATIONS

If you have not already been contacted, please call 663-4986 (Mrs. Skinner) or 663-4621 (Miss Aldrich) by Saturday, November 27th, if you plan to attend the dinner. Tickets are \$1.75 each.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME FOR DINNER, FEEL FREE TO ATTEND THE MEETING LATER. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1965

President-----John Parker  
1st. Vice-President-----Mrs. Nolan Skinner  
2nd. Vice-President--Orville Pitts  
Corresponding Secy.-----Mrs. Robert Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul, Indiana  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K. Bussell, 711 North East Street, Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Kathryn Taney  
Editor--THE BULLETIN--Paul H. Huber  
Staff-----Mrs. Paul Freeland Smiley Fowler

\* \* \* \* \*

EARLY BIRDS- Members can still qualify as EARLY BIRDS by paying their 1966 dues at the Dinner Meeting.



GENEALOGICAL SECTION

Marilyn Baxter, 1422 Fletcher Street, Anderson, Indiana, would appreciate information concerning her great, great grandfather Jesse Talkington (or Tarkington) who settled in Decatur County about 1833. He entered a section of government land where the town of Alert now stands in 1834 and obtained his deed in 1836. Mr. Talkington was still living in 1884 at age 89. Wanted pertinent dates (death if possible) places, people, etc. Also information on Daniel Keely who married Elizabeth Talkington in Shelby County February 20, 1834. Rev. James Ray performed this marriage.

Mrs. Lenore Crist Redington, 988 Taney Lane, Pocatello, Idaho, desires information about the Crist family of Franklin and Decatur Counties. This family came to Indiana as early as 1811. Mrs. Redington would like to contact someone to make a court-house search under her direction.

Delmar B. Blackmore, 1147 North Minot Street, Anaheim, California, wishes to trace the Blackmore family. His father was David M. Blackmore whose brothers were William, James and John Blackmore. The latter died about 1946. Mr. Blackmore would also like to contact someone to make a court-house search.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERSHIP - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTICE N. Y. CITY - Candlemaking was a household task. The common people made their own; the servants of the rich and ruling classes made theirs. Sheep suet and ox tallow were the major fat used. After cutting the fats into blocks, simmering in water, skimming, refining, and finally straining through a fine sieve, preferably of horsehair came the molding process. These molds were arranged in frames holding anywhere from a pair to three dozen. When cold and hard, the molds were plunged in hot water which loosened the molded candle and made removal easy. Does the thought of two thousand candles startle you? Try illuminating your own home with five and a half candles a day. This was a minimum in most early households.

NEW GEOGRAPHY OF AMERICAN ANTIQUES--Drepperd



## A HISTORY OF SANDUSKY METHODIST CHURCH

By (Mrs. Edgar) Marie Clark

There is no more potent factor in the life of any community than the church and the influence of an active denomination is measured by the wholesome, neighborly, God-fearing spirit found in that community.

Many years have passed since the first settlers came to Clinton Township, but it was several years before a town or a church was built at Sandusky. However, there was a Christian Church about a mile north of Sandusky, near State Road 3. An old cemetery may yet be found there. Shiloh Methodist Church was near the southwest part of the township and is a church which many older members remember. A well-kept cemetery and names familiar in the community may be found on the grave stones. Center Grove Methodist Church was in reach of those in the southeast part of the township, but this church has been discontinued for so long no records of it remain. A mile north of the county line was Bethesda. Again, only a graveyard down a little lane is all that remains to tell of our pioneer ancestors who worshiped there. In the northwest part of the township, people went to Old Union. Some of our members went there when children. The church has been gone many years and only the silent sleepers in the tangled overgrown churchyard are left. So we see that the people of Clinton Township did not lack for a place to worship, but when Sandusky was laid out, it wasn't long until a church was planned.

The history of our church at Sandusky is also a history of the community and village. The railroad was called the North Vernon, Greensburg, and Rushville Railway and opened from Greensburg to Rushville, Sept. 10, 1880. While there may have been a house or two near the junction of this railway and the Ft. Wayne Pike (which is now called State Road 3), the town was not laid out until Oct. 7, 1882, by Oliver Sefton. As with many of our inland towns, it was the coming of the railroad that made a shipping point and a community village.

Five years later, a small band of men and women met and, with the help of W. S. Troyer and the Rev. F. S. Potts, organized the Sandusky Methodist Episcopal Church. There were 13 charter members, but only the names of seven are obtainable. They were: Mr. and Mrs. John Harrell, Albert and Kate Higgins, Mrs. Phillip Harrell, and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Rozell. Mr. and Mrs. Rozell were the parents of Mrs. Elma Knox of Greensburg. This little band met in the homes and the schoolhouse until 1892, when work was started on a church building that was completed in 1893 and dedicated on June 10, 1893. The Rev. Daniel Ryan was pastor and Dr. Moore of Cincinnati dedicated the building, using as his text, "This is a true and faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief."

Sandusky was on the Milroy circuit, which consisted of Milroy, Sandusky, Shiloh, Bethesda, Center Grove, Richland, and Mt. Olivet, and was served by two and sometimes three pastors.

The church, as originally built, consisted of only the main auditorium and entrance vestibule.



In 1905, Sandusky and Shiloh were put on circuit together under the pastorate of the Rev. T. J. Anthony, through whose efforts a parsonage was built at Sandusky. Shiloh was disbanded in 1907, and Sandusky, Clarksburg, and Mt. Carmel were put on circuit together, with the Rev. Mr. Westhaver as pastor. In September of the year 1919, the Rev. Mr. Watkins became our pastor, and in 1920 plans were made to enlarge the church. This was finished in 1921, the addition being a small kitchen and three Classrooms. This was dedicated on Aug. 28, 1921, with W. S. Bovard, secretary of the board of Sunday Schools, as speaker.

In the Fall of 1921, Clarksburg left the circuit, and as Mt. Carmel had been discontinued some years before, we were on circuit with Richland for one year. In September, 1923, the Rev. Mr. LaHue became our pastor and we were put on circuit with Adams and still remain so.

For several years we have been gaining in attendance, until we saw that in all justice to our children and young folks we must again have more room. So in September, 1953, under the pastorate of the Rev. O. P. Baugh, plans were made to enlarge the basement, for a dining room and kitchen, which could also be used as classrooms. This was finished in 1954.

Committees for the improvement were: General--Luella Wood, Marie Clark, Pauline Barnes, Thomas McDonald, and Woodrow Kirchhoff. This committee met and appointed the following: Building--Harold Ruddell, W. F. McHenry, and Shirley Davis. Finance--Delbert Kistler, Pauline Barnes, and Lois Alley.

We now have a beautiful, well-equipped church of which all the members are proud. I am indebted to Miss Louella Watkins, Mrs. Maude Clarke, Mrs. Elma Knox, Clarence Sefton, for parts of this history. Other facts and dates were obtained from the Decatur County history, the public library, and files of old newspapers.

#### Ministers of Sandusky Church

1. Organized in 1887 under the Rev. F. S. Potts of Milroy circuit and also S. W. Troyer.
2. S. W. Troyer, James Gillespie.
3. James W. Allen, H. O. Frazier, J. T. Jones.
4. Daniel Ryan, D. C. Benjamin, C. E. Hester.
5. J. L. Brown, W. G. Proctor.
6. A. N. Morlatt, C. C. Bonnell, E. I. Larue.
7. E. P. Jewett, L. M. Edwards.
8. Sandusky and Shiloh--1905, Rev. T. G. Anthony.
9. Sandusky, Clarksburg, and Mt. Carmel--F. M. Westhaver, J. W. Dashield, W. M. Creath, J. E. Sidebottom, C. E. Hester, Pope,



Erickson; 1919, W. C. Watkins, Rev. LaHue; Adams and Sandusky, Rev. Crider, Rev. Rogers, Rev. Houseman, Rev. Thompson, Rev. Jann, Rev. Gladys Marsh, Rev. Hogue; and 1955, Rev. Baugh.

- THE FARM NEWS OF DECATUR COUNTY  
August 12, 1955 issue

\* \* \* \* \*

ROAD NAMES

The kin and business heirs of Henry Ford have not accepted his facetious dictum that "history is the bunk." Witness the enormous museums and historical collections at Fort Dearborn and other places that have arisen from his fortune.

This entire country has, within the last decade, evinced a growing interest in its past as a background for its future, a national revival of the insular pride that characterizes our English ancestry. Indiana is among its leaders in the states, and Decatur County among the most prominent in seeking to preserve local facts and traditions.

It was recently called to my attention, however, that "road names," once so well established, have been allowed to vanish since the innovation of "road numbers."

This is not to say that the numerical designation of county and township roads is without merit. Quite the contrary, this system is an important improvement in directing fire fighters or police or strangers to an isolated spot on the map.

Old familiar names, however, should not be forgotten. Such, for example, as the "Vandalia Road," which branches off the "Old Michigan Road" a mile northwest of Greensburg and reaches the Shelby County line 10 miles west. (In Shelby the name is designated by historical markers.)

The Michigan Road southeast was known to former generations as "The Napoleon Road." When it became a state highway it was numbered "Ind. 29." Later, becoming a national highway, it was labeled "U. S. 421"--and the pioneer name practically forgotten. At Greensburg's corporation line it forks to the right and opens "The Millhousen Road."

Decatur County's first experiment with blacktop gave us "The Tarvia Road," a designation that clings popularly to the county highway taking off east from Ind. 3 about three miles north of Greensburg.

"The Scenic Route" is the old trail from Greensburg to Westport via Turner's Quarry, veering briefly to the left at the T, where the right turn leads to Harris City.

The "Painter Crick Road" (sometimes corrupted to "Penther Creek") is southeast of Westport. Other half-forgotten road names include "Downeyville," "Moscow," "Dark Corner," (northwest of Alert), "Brookville" and "Possum Glory," (southwest of Burney.)



Unfortunately, many of our busy, taxharassed generation agree with Henry--many believe that the documents most contributing to the U. S. government are Forms 1040 and 1040-A.

-Fowler

ed's note- Earlier settlers called the TARVIA ROAD - THE AIRLINE PIKE. Today local road officials call it the STEWART ROAD.....Some people yet today are prone to call the road to Millhousen--the MADISON ROAD.....The road from Star Church to St. Omer is also known as the BROOKVILLE ROAD--which gives us another road to Franklin county.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING--Sunday October 24th came and the Historical Society met at St. Mary's School in Millhousen for their annual Fall Field Trip.....Although the sky was gray and the wind was sharp, over two hundred brave members arrived promptly at the appointed hour.....After a cordial welcome by the Rev. Father Riebenthaler, pastor of The Immaculate Conception Church of Millhousen and instructions from President John Parker as to the route to be followed, the eager group set forth.....The first stop was at the beautiful old historic church built in 1868 on ground donated by Maximillian Schneider for the establishment of a town and a church. Here Father Riebenthaler spoke briefly on the history of the church and explained the significance of the paintings, real treasures that they are, almost one hundred years old. Sitting in this lovely old church with the afternoon sun shining through the long beautiful stained glass windows, imported from Germany many years ago- was a memorable occasion for the members present.....Following this, the long caravan started out for the next point of interest and although it was a "wrong-way Harrigan" affair, all arrived at the point designated without mishap. Here the sturdy and sure-footed ones took off afoot on a rugged trek of about a quarter of a mile, to observe an unusual rock formation on the crest of a hill, known locally as Pompey's Pillar. Everyone was charmed with the magnificent view from this eminence.....The next point to be visited was the former Ben Feldman home, situated at the East limits of Millhousen. This palatial home was built in 1854 by Barney Hardebeck, who was a prominent and prosperous resident of the town in its early days. He operated the woolen mill there. This large handsome brick structure, not occupied at the present time, had long been a show place in the community. Of special interest to the members was the beautiful woodwork, all fashioned by hand and every room had its fireplace. All left wishing that they might acquire this lovely old place and have a hand in its restoration.....The last stop was at the Knights of St. John Hall where the traditional coffee and doughnuts were served by the Ladies Auxiliary. Monsignor George Moorman, retired Catholic clergyman, now living in Millhousen, here reviewed the early history of the community in his scholarly way. Mr. Will Scheidler, a native and a member of the Society, who had arranged the tour, told in a lighter vein, many amusing but interesting incidents concerning his early life in Millhousen.....This brought to a close



another successful field trip. The warm welcome extended the Society by the fine people of Millhousen will always be remembered!

- CONTRIBUTED.

POMPEY'S PILLAR- A Corinthian column of red granite nearly 100 feet high erected at Alexandria by Publius, Prefect of Egypt, in honor of Diocletian and to record the conquest of Alexandria in 296. It has about as much right to be called Pompey's Pillar as the obelisk of Heliopolis, erected by Rameses II at Alexandria, has to be called Cleopatra's Needle- BREWERS DICTIONARY OF PHRASE AND FABLE.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OLD TIME POLITICS

(Greensburg Daily News circa 1950)

Mr. Milquetoast played no part in political contests of Decatur county two generations ago. Living persons (who expose their ages by recalling events of half a century ago) can easily imagine the amusement and amazement with which Alex Porter and Polk Thomson would view today's political skirmishes.

In those days Decatur county was disputed territory. Election day would see one side sweep into office with a triumphant shout, and the next would see it go out on its ears. Now, with Republicans occupying the courthouse and Democrats entrenched in the White House on long-term leases, it is interesting to speculate on the methods or conditions that have brought about these results. They may be due to one or the other but more likely to a combination.

Without benefit of automobiles, microphones, radio, television or paper match advertising, the oldtimers took off their gloves early in the campaign and slugged it out till the polls closed.

#### No Distaff Aid

Organization was as nearly airtight as human nature permitted. County chairmen had their lieutenants in the townships, sergeants in the precincts and ward-healers in the alleys. There was a hand on the pulse--and the purse--of every partisan. Women were allowed no part in the line-up, not even as stenographers or secretaries--the game was too rough.

Jackson township was a solid-south of Democracy, as Fugit township was the county's Vermont.

Like all youths of 21, I was promptly enlisted on the side to which my father and grandfathers had paid allegiance, and I found the game exciting. The ways and means were revealed to me gradually, sometimes with a shock. Having, by this time, learned to read and write, I was at once made secretary of my first Democratic convention.

I recall an occasion, after I got to be a newspaper reporter, when I began to learn that the path of political rectitude is not the shortest distance between two points.



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I recall an occasion, after I got to be a newspaper reporter, when I began to learn that the path of political rectitude is not the shortest distance between two points.



It was after working hours, and in company with two other enthusiastic young Democrats I was making a tour of voting places. We saw some money change hands in an alley but we couldn't prove anything. And then we made the Big Discovery. We got right down to a run to headquarters and blabbed in the chairman's ear:

"That Republican judge over in the Fourth (or maybe it was the Fifth) precinct has just destroyed 15 ballots while the Democrat watcher was taking a nap. We've got proof of it too. He can be sent to the pen, can't he?"

"Well," our chairman said, "I just wouldn't say anything about it, boys. We hafta do that kind of thing too sometimes."

On another occasion, in mid-afternoon on election day (with all of Greensburg's 21 saloons closed tighter'n a boot) a courier came running to headquarters with the disconcerting announcement: "Boys, we're clear outa whisky in the Fourth Ward."

#### Extravagance Rapped

My memory does not go back to the campaigns when Republicans and Democrats fought over the relative merits of hickory saplings and poplar saplings as flag-poles, but I do recall one old German Democrat who had fallen out with Cleveland's fiscal policies. He was quoted as having charged: "He's spent t'ree t'ousand dollars already, and now he's askin' for t'ree t'ousand more."

And I'll never forgive that slick-tongued book-agent who talked me into paying \$1.75 for Bryan's "First Battle," a publication that followed his first "16 to 1" campaign, chiefly devoted to glorifying the Bryan family. I was 14, crazy about books, and intent on accumulating a library of valuable books. I'm still sore about it.

So far as I know, the only thing John Osborn ever got out of his youthful endeavors in behalf of Bryan was a telephone number. And this is how it came about: Under the old phone system John's number was one-two-one, and when the four-figure system was installed somebody recalled John's old monetary battle-cry and dropped in the "six," making it "1621."

"Independent" newspapers were not highly regarded in the old days when the New Era put up its valiant year-round fight against the Standard and Review. Items of ordinary news were politically colored. Dr. S. V. Wright, in his Prohibition paper, stood out against all three.

#### H. B. Sherman's Oratory

Bankers and lawyers however, were smarter from the business point of view. Nearly every law firm was made up of one Democrat and one Republican, and the banks sought a fair balance on their official roster.



Henry B. Sherman, preacher, justice of the peace and auctioneer, was Decatur county's representative in the state legislature at the same time that Booth Tarkington served for Marion county. Booth, shy and self-conscious told in later years how he envied the brazen volubility of his fellow Republican from Decatur county, who always was ready to go off on an oratorical flight at the drop of a campaign button.

Tarkington wrote a Saturday Evening Post article on his legislature experience, telling his favorite story of Sherman's forensic eulogy on "Indiana." (I repeat it here in the belief that some News reader may be young enough not to have heard it.)

"The great state of Indiana," roared Sherman in his peroration, "goes down the road with her head up and her tail over the dashboard!"

- S. F.

\* \* \* \* \*

AN APPEAL- Mrs. Roscoe C. O'Byrne of Brookville, on behalf of D. A. R., requests information on the following men who are listed as Revolutionary War Soldiers buried in Decatur County. If any descendants of any of these men have information, please direct same to Mrs. Charles (Vida) Loucks of Greensburg, who will forward this information to Mrs. O'Byrne. The list is as follows:

Samuel Brown	Archibald Bennet	John Shuttle
***** Cooper	Ralph Cassell	Theodore Webb
James Crawford	Elijah Devore	Harraway Owen
John Gilliland	James Hobbs	***** Wheeler
***** Kirby	William Layton	Francis McIntosh
Icabod Parker	Stephen Parnell	John Newton

\* \* \* \* \*

#### COMMITTEES

##### Arrangements

Mrs. Nolan Skinner

##### Decorations

Miss Millicent Huber, ch.  
Mrs. Charles Walls

##### Display

William Parker, ch.  
Ivan Bailey  
D. D. Dickson  
Paul H. Huber

##### Registration

Mrs. Nolan Skinner, ch.  
Miss Gladys Aldrich

##### Reception

Ivan Bailey, ch.  
Mrs. Walter Lowe  
Mrs. James Shannon

##### Nominating

Donald Minning, ch.  
Miss Gladys Aldrich  
Mrs. Frank Clark

##### Audit

Miss Mary Craig, ch.  
Mrs. Bertha Alexander  
Mrs. Elbert Richards

\* \* \* \* \*

It has been suggested that the trouble with each generation, is that it hasn't read the minutes of the last meeting- NUSSBAUM



THE DISPLAY- As in the past, there is to be a display at the dinner meeting. In keeping with the program, it is planned to have a show of antiques. With the members cooperating- this can, as before, be an interesting feature of the meeting. Please bring your best piece- something different and unique!

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



21 Mr. William W. Parker  
R. R. 5  
Greensburg, Indiana



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume II - No. 28

Greensburg, Indiana

April 25, 1966

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. Rolland Kirby  
Mrs. Rolland Kirby  
Dr. Delton Shazer  
Mrs. Delton Shazer  
Mrs. Paul Holbrook  
Miss Phoebe J. Harrison  
Mrs. Mabel Bobbitt-Waldron  
Mrs. Martha Luken  
Mr. Edward Cramer  
Mr. Larry Baker  
Mr. Carl Hessler  
Mrs. Carl Hessler  
Rev. Carl Riebenthaler  
Mr. Gerald T. Kelsch-Peoria, Ill.  
Mrs. Maurice Osting  
Mrs. Ruth Shouse-Manilla, Ind.  
Mrs. John Batterton  
Mr. William Parmer-Middletown, Ind.  
Mr. Bertis C. Parmer-Santa Fe,  
New Mexico  
Mrs. Anthony Moorman  
Mrs. Edwin Kessler  
Mrs. Lawrence Dudley  
Mr. Robert E. Lee-Indpls. 548

OCCASION: Spring meeting  
SPEAKER: Hon. Willard Low  
DATE: Saturday, May 7th,  
1966 at 8:00 P. M.  
Fast time  
PLACE: Billings Elementary  
School, West Washing-  
ton Street, Greensburg,  
Indiana

Mr. Low, a resident of Westport, formerly the druggist there and a retired teacher, currently is serving in the State Legislature as joint representative from Decatur and Jennings counties..... In keeping with the Sesquicentennial Year, he comes to us with a program, illustrated with slides, on SOUTHERN INDIANA. Let us hope that Mr. Low does not go so far afield, that he neglects our own community of Westport, which abounds in Hoosier lore.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

NEVER TOO LATE - A recent issue of the HOOSIER LEGIONNAIRE has an article concerning a citation for Mrs. Sarah Newman by the local Welsh-Crawley-Kramer Post No. 129. Aside from her devotion to veterans and veteran's rehabilitation, Mrs. Newman "maintains a complete record of all deceased veterans in Decatur County from the War of 1812 to the present." Except for the law requiring that copies of the local newspaper be bound and filed in the county recorder's office, is there anyone except Mrs. Newman that is making an effort to keep a record of such vital statistics? Sarah Newman for your untiring efforts in the field of history particularly on the local level - we salute you!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1966

President-----John Parker  
1st. Vice-President--Mrs. Dorothy  
Doles  
2nd. Vice-President-----Dr. D. D.  
Dickson  
Corresponding Secy.---Mrs. Robert  
Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul,  
Indiana  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K.  
Bussell, 711 North East St.,  
Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Mary E. Craig

\* \* \* \* \*



SPRING IS HERE

The winter's snows are melting fast  
And spring is in the offing.  
I'm sure this winter's in the past  
For I have stopped my coughing.

Now snow flakes are a wondrous sight-  
They are of God's creation.  
But they can rarely compensate  
For prolonged hibernation.

The ides of March will bring on rains  
Which surely are deploring,  
But May brings on the flowers which  
Keep all our spirits soaring.

Well let it rain, or let it snow;  
Tear all storm clouds asunder  
But keep my poor wife's nerves serene,  
'Cause she's afraid of thunder.

T. O. T.

I like it because it is  
homespun-ed

\* \* \* \* \*

Manilla, Indiana  
February 10, 1966

Dear Editor:

Had I known sixty years ago, that I would become so interested in the older generations of my family, I would have started putting all the information I could learn on paper much sooner.

My great grandfather Dr. Uriah Price was born in Bellefontaine, Ohio. For a number of years he lived on a farm just East of New Pennington school house and practiced medicine in the surrounding community. I presume he travelled by horse drawn buggy or cart or possibly rode horse-back.

From all reports I've ever heard, he was a very good medical doctor. At one time there was an epidemic of diphtheria and Dr. Price made up a medicine that cured and saved many of the suffering people. He used many home grown herbs and plants in medicine.

Dr. Price married Lavina Pharoah and they were blessed with five children, namely Phoebe, Mary Jane, John H., Amos and Rachel Ann, who married John H. Castor. They (the Castors) were blessed with three sons, Lewis who died at the age of ten months and seven days, John H., Jr. and William Clay my father.



Besides being a good doctor he and Mrs. Price once took an infant of a neighbor that was left motherless and cared for the child until the child's father remarried.

To my knowledge he has two grand children living in Dyersburg, Tennessee and many great and great great grand children. Two great granddaughters became registered nurses and one great great grandson became a doctor, Cecil W. Castor, M. D. of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

On the last time Dr. Price was to visit his family at Bellefontaine, it was a cold rainy day and in going from the railroad station to the home, his clothes and shoes became quite damp, so it seems in his eagerness to see and visit with his family, he never thought of changing his damp clothes for dry ones. As a result he became ill with a cold and contracted pneumonia.

Dr. Price passed away at the home of his family in Bellefontaine, Ohio, January 12, 1879, aged 62 years, 9 months and 12 days. It has been said had he looked after his own health as he had for others, he could have lived years longer.

His widow Lavina passed away September 26, 1897. Both rest in the old part of Rossburg Cemetery, North of New Point, Indiana.

Respectfully,

Ruth Castor Shouse

Mrs. Shouse is a new member but a devoted one-ed

\* \* \* \* \*

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Occasionally there is a mix-up concerning the payment of dues. This happens because for one reason or another, payment is not sent to the proper person--this being the Recording Secretary. PLEASE DIRECT ALL MATTERS OF MEMBERSHIP TO THE RECORDING SECRETARY. Her address--

Miss Helen K. Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Indiana

"When a people begin to forget their hard beginnings, they begin to decay."- Carl Sandburg

BACK ISSUES--Anyone interested in back issues of the BULLETIN may have those copies that are available by writing the Editor.

ARCHIVES--The Society is the recipient of and acknowledges with thanks a handsome volume entitled LAYNE-LAIN-LANE GENEALOGY. A work begun in 1911 and published in 1962, it represents the efforts of a life time, to collect and document the history of the Layne family. Spell it Lain or Lane if you wish. Members bearing this family name are urged to send data on their family to Floyd Benjamin Layne, 2236 San Marco Drive, Los Angeles 28, California.



THEN AND NOW- The following Decatur County towns had post-offices in 1879, all told twenty-four. Today there are eight including Adams, which is classed as a rural station. Burney had no post-office in 1879. Here is another subject for a future meeting- our postal history. More interesting than you think!

- |                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| * Adams                  | * New Point   |
| Alert                    | Saint Maurice |
| * Clarksburg             | Saint Omer    |
| Clifty                   | * Saint Paul  |
| Enochsburg- Franklin co. | Sardinia      |
| Ewington                 | Springhill    |
| Forest Hill              | Tarkeo        |
| Gaynorsville             | Waynesburgh   |
| * Greensburgh            | * Westport    |
| Kingston                 | Williamstown  |
| Lett's Corners           | Wintersville  |
| McCoy's Station          | Harris City   |
| * Millhousen             |               |

\* Today including Burney

THE LAST MEETING- The seventh annual dinner meeting held early in December, has passed into history, marked as it was, by the largest attendance yet and the interest displayed--the greatest. The dinner served in the pleasant atmosphere of the high school cafeteria was, as always, enjoyed by all.....It would be anticlimactic to discuss the affair any further, since the local press, as is their habit covered the event so well.....We believe that the annual dinner meeting of the Society is one of the nicer social events of the season, and that, which makes for this is people- the good members giving of their time and effort, for which their only reward is the inner satisfaction of having done a job well. We think they deserve special mention here, somewhat as follows:

Mrs. Nolan Skinner for her untiring efforts all year, and particularly for arranging the dinner meeting.....Miss Millicent Huber ably assisted by Mrs. Chas. Walls for their novel ideas of decoration- especially the picture post cards that caught on so well.....Rounding up three tables of antiques was no small chore for William Parker and Ivan Bailey. The display as always was a feature of the meeting- it made for conversation amongst the A. A. (antique addicts) crowd.....Mr. Bailey again scored, along with Mrs. Walter Lowe and Mrs. James Shannon on reception- how nice it was for guests attending for the first time to be made welcome.....Hardly a part of the show but important nevertheless, was the nominating committee, consisting of Donald Minning, Miss Gladys Aldrich and Mrs. Frank Clark. Theirs was the work of several evenings before the main event as was that of the auditing committee headed up by Miss Mary Craig- Mrs. Bertha Alexander and Mrs. Elbert Richards assisting.....For other entertainment, there was Mrs. Alouise Kessler on the organ playing old melodies- but tune-ful....."Unhonored and unsung"- they would have it no other way, were the callers- much of the success of the meeting was due the callers. Bless them!.....Our president in the role of conducting the meeting, was in there "pitching" too as they say- so much so, that he was the



unanimous choice to again lead us in 1966.....Last but not least- the Sweets from Carmel, speaking on EARLY AMERICAN LIVING. What a team they were!.....To use an old phrase- it was quite an evening!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### EARLY ARTISTS OF DECATUR COUNTY

Decatur County's cultural history would not be complete without a record of its pictorial art, although, unfortunately, few paintings from the early period are to be found.....Several of the productions of Wilbur Woodward and Lotta Guffin are preserved in obscure museums in New York and Paris, and one at least may be seen at John Herron in Indianapolis. The popularity of both these Decatur County natives endured through the 1870s and '80s.

Early artists of local fame include Captain Silas Rigby and Robert Moulton.

After the Civil War Capt. Rigby took up housepainting for a livelihood, and, in spare time, developed much skill in portrait and landscape painting. He followed the mode of the Dutch and Italian masters.

Bob Moulton, remembered by many older citizens of New Point, followed the same pattern of artistry, having a natural talent for line and color.

Three Alert women who attained much skill in pictorial art in the 1890s were Miss Rose Clayton, a Miss Shafer and a Miss Talkington. The first two painted in oils. Miss Talkington used a pantograph to produce crayon portraits that were accurate and very popular in that period. Mrs. Joe Moss and her pupil, the late Mrs. Maude Kitchin Johnston, produced drawings and paintings of merit.

The late Harry Ballard of St. Paul had a successful career as a theatrical scene painter and later as an engraving company's artist in Detroit.

Illness and death interrupted the artistic lives of Miss Rebecca Wirt and Miss Marie Hunt.

Also cut short was the career of Wilbur Woodward, who died at the age of 29, after having distinguished himself in international art exhibits, including Paris and Rome salons. He was born at St. Omer in 1851. At the age of 10 he enlisted as a Civil War drummer boy but was soon released. His family settled at Lawrenceburg. He was accepted in his teens as a student in a Cincinnati art school, and at 20 he went to Europe for seven years of study in the best schools. In addition to his exceptional art productions he became proficient in seven languages.

Charlotte Hillis was born on a farm south of Greensburg in 1844. In some odd manner that family traditions have not explained her name came to be spelled Hollis while she was in school. At the age of 20



she was married to Henry Clay Guffin, which accounts for the signature on her paintings--Lotta Guffin.

For several years Charlotte pursued a music career. She studied in Cincinnati, later becoming a member of the music faculty at Northwestern Christian University (now Butler) in Indianapolis. In the Hoosier capital she took up art under Jacob Cox. From there she went to New York for a period of study, returning to Indianapolis to compete with the best artists. Her pictures brought good prices. She died in Chicago in 1896.

Smiley Fowler

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE RINK

A building is not just a mass of sticks and stones; neither is it something we should value entirely because of age or beauty. As time goes by and we are intimately associated with it, it becomes dear to our hearts and deeply enshrined in our memories.....Such a building was the old Rink which stood at the corner of Monfort and West Washington streets. Although its life was short, it was a merry one. Again and again through the years, it spread its great gray wings to shelter the community life of Greensburg. If we recall one by one, the many events which took place within its walls, we will find an interesting page of our city's history.

One of the delightful ways to preserve our historic landmarks is through traditions and legends of the past.

During the late eighties a craze for roller skating swept over the country. Everyone wanted to skate, young and old, big and little. They all took to wheels and went skimming about. Every building possible, was used for skating although many were entirely unsuitable. There was urgent need for a good skating floor.

About 1885 Jim Smith became interested in this as a business venture. Since he was not a man of money, he was financed by Wm. S. (Bill) Woodfill who so kindly and generously financed many Greensburg ventures.

Mr. Smith bought the lot at Monfort and West Washington and built a large one story building on it. It was extremely plain and barnlike in appearance, but it had a marvelous hardwood maple floor, 60 by 160 feet in size, which was a joy to skaters and dancers forever after. From that day the Rink became a rendezvous for pleasure seekers.

Not many people remember Jim Smith but a lot of them remember his sister-in-law Claribel Winchester who taught us how to sing. The family all lived together on North Broadway.

In those days skates could be rented at the Hall, and this gave everyone a chance to enjoy the fun. There were skating races- contests



and skating parties. There was even a King and Queen of skaters. While they were not chosen by vote, there was an understanding on the part of the public who they were because of their unusual grace and skill. Chas. Woodfill proved to be a King of skaters and Rose Ketchum Donnell was Queen for many a day.

Many have memories of those days. Van Woodfill can tell you how boys schemed to skate for nothing and Esta Hiner says she ruined the best dress she ever had skating at the Rink.

Perhaps the most unique thing of all was the Skating Band. The old Town Band fitted themselves with skates and gave concerts and exhibitions as they went toodling about. They toured all of southern Indiana and even spent a week in Louisville entertaining.

They were a group of talented musicians who played in the summer on Saturday nights, on the corners of the Square hoping to drum up trade for the merchants. Instead of "Moonlight Madness" and such they furnished us band concerts.

Their leader Marsh Thomas also had a magnificent voice which the people loved to hear on all occasions. Those were days when you didn't just suddenly turn on your music and talented musicians were loved and cherished by the whole community.

In the course of a few years the skating fad subsided, and the Rink was used for other things. Having a big stage it was perfect for many things; public speaking, traveling shows and home talent theatricals so popular at that time.

During the county's great temperance reform movement of about 1890 Frances Murphy a noted speaker addressed enormous crowds there. People flocked to the front to sign a temperance pledge and receive one of the small white bows which everyone was wearing. The common greeting of the day was, "Have you signed the Pledge?"

Not long after this Mrs. Woodworth, an evangelist held six weeks of "protracted meetings." They were attended by crowds of people and much excitement prevailed. There was shouting, singing and loud praying. Many fell to the floor in trances and tall tales were told of visions which were seen. We, of the more quiet religious faith, went just to see what was going on and were well repaid.

Many hot political speeches were made there. People took their politics seriously and with lots of "Hurrah" in those times. Benjamin Harrison made a rousing speech there while running for the Senate. Jim Watson made one of his first appearances here when aspiring to Congress.

There were many good theatrical shows touring the country and Geo. Dunn, able manager of the Rink brought a fair share to Greensburg. One special treat was Richard Keene in Shakespeare's "Richard III." Keene afterwards became one of the country's best Shakesperian actors.



Of all the delightful home talent shows given, none so pleased the public as the K. of P. circus, put on by the Knights of Pythias. In true circus language, it was grand- magnificent- stupendous. It had everything- sawdust rings, clowns, bareback riders with paper hoops. A lordly ring master (Joe Hitt) strutted about cracking his whip; there was a German band and even red lemonade.

No one ever forgot nor will ever forget the specialties. The bloody "gladitorial" combat between two portly society gentlemen of the day. Pool Minear and Judge Dave Myers dressed only in their tight fitting flesh colored "undies" fought to the finish with broad card board swords.

Neither have they forgotten the trapeze performance of Henry Kammerling. By some strange quirk his clown costume became stuck and entangled. As he swung gaily back and forth he became tightly bound until he could only dangle helplessly from the bar. Now Henry was a very popular person, a natural clown and beloved by the whole town. But the longer he dangled, the more excited he got and he called loudly for "Help! Help!" in his dilemma. In his excitement he returned again to his native German dialect calling again and again "Untwind me back! Untwind me back!" The crowd roared with laughter and left as Henry's helpers "Unvound" him back.

A few short years later the Rink burned to the ground and what a fire! Clouds of smoke covered all that end of town as the great frame giant was consumed. With it went many sweet memories of Happy Days in Greensburg-

Floy P. Batteron

\* \* \* \* \*

#### VAGUE RECORD OF THE ROTHSCHILD FAMILIES

The Rothschilds are believed to be the first Jews to reach pioneer Decatur County.....Doubtless they were connected with the famous banking families of Europe, although there are no available records of their immigration to America nor of their peregrinations as peddlers.. ...The brothers, Josef and Ferdinand, carrying heavy packs on their backs (according to local traditions at the end of the century), making their second trip to Milford, were so pleased with the mercantile prospects that they settled there. Evidently they were carrying considerable money, for they bought a general merchandise store with well established business and set about to expand it. They also bought a farm near the east edge of the village which is now owned and occupied by Clarence Worland.....Joe Rothschild died of a heart attack in his store about 1889. Soon thereafter Ferd sold the business and moved to Indianapolis.....Leopold Rothschild, a highly esteemed Indianapolis businessman a generation ago (popularly called Baron Rothschild) was, quite likely, a descendant of Ferd's family.....The name Rothschild is not so ancient as might be inferred. The founder of the original banking family was Mayer Anselm Bauer (1743-1812). He was born in Frankfort-amMain, Germany, and was orphaned when he was a baby. He was educated to be a teacher but obtained a job in a Hanover bank. He



prospered and early in life founded his own business in Frankfort. It was called the Red Scutcheon (Roth Schild in German) and was adopted as the family name.....The eldest of Mayer's five sons, Anselm Mayer von Rothschild became head of the Frankfort firm, while the others established branches in various foreign capitols. The chief source of their enormous wealth was in lending money to various nations of Europe.

ed-This bit about the Rothschilds of Milford has long been awaited and suggests another story-who were some of their successors, Mr. Fowler?



/THE BULLETIN/

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 29

Greensburg, Indiana

September 1, 1966

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Paul Zinser  
Mrs. Isophene Davis  
Miss Helen M. West- Hialeah, Fla.  
Mrs. Ola Freeland Irwin- Oak Lawn,  
Illinois 552

OCCASION: Fall Meeting  
SPEAKER: Miss Winifred Armstrong  
DATE: Sunday, Sept. 11th,  
1966 at 2:00 P. M.  
Fast Time  
PLACE: Parker's Pond

\* \* \* \* \*

IT'S THOSE ASTERISKS AGAIN- Our recording secretary is concerned for those who have not paid their 1966 dues. Should a star appear on the address label of your copy of the BULLETIN, you should consult with her at once!!!!

In keeping with the Indiana Sesqui-Centennial and the schools beginning another year, a program has been planned devoted to our early schools. Miss Winifred Armstrong of Letts and a retired teacher will relate the many experiences of her long career in the public schools. A dedicated teacher with a sense of humor, Miss Armstrong comes to us, especially well qualified as our speaker for the afternoon.

\* \* \* \* \*

DR. D. D. DICKSON'S DEPT.- See the doctor's contribution to the program elsewhere in this issue.... One will note that he has omitted the lethal devices of fifty years ago- they were fun but still lethal! For further details ask Smiley Fowler, Frank Marlin or Paul Huber.

PLEASE NOTE- You are urged to bring your old school pictures, programs, textbooks, slates and pencils for a display. Nothing makes for more conversation than an old school picture and what is more interesting!

\* \* \* \* \*

PICNIC AFTERWARD

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1966

President-----John Parker  
1st. Vice-President--Mrs. Dorothy  
Doles  
2nd. Vice-President-----Dr. D. D.  
Dickson  
Corresponding Secy.---Mrs. Robert  
Dale Brown, RFD 1, St. Paul,  
Indiana  
Recording Secy.-----Miss Helen K.  
Bussell, 711 North East St.,  
Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer-----Miss Mary E. Craig

MR. & MRS. PARKER HEREBY EXTEND THEIR USUAL INVITATION TO THE MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS TO BRING THEIR BASKETS IF THEY WISH TO DO SO.

PRESIDENT'S REQUEST- That you bring your own chair- everybody has a lawn chair.

\* \* \* \* \*

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!



## OLD TOY CONTEST AND DEMONSTRATION

Many toys our grandparents had were home made and the knowledge of the manufacture of these items is being lost. We wish to have each of you MAKE a copy of one or several toys you used when you were a child. There will be three classes of entries as follows:

CLASS 1 Home Made - 1st & 2nd Prizes  
(Owner demonstrates)

1. BEST SQUIRT GUN
2. BEST POP GUN
3. BEST SLING SHOT
4. BEST KITE
5. BEST WHISTLE
6. BEST HORSE FIDDLE
7. BEST STEAM TOY

CLASS 2 3 prizes

BEST OLD TOY, EITHER MANUFACTURED OR HOME MADE.

CLASS 3

THE LONGEST LIST OF HOME MADE TOYS - 1st & 2nd Prizes

D. D. Dickson M. D.



THE LAST MEETING- The Hon. Willard Low of Westport, currently serving in the State Legislature as joint representative from Decatur and Jennings counties, spoke from his own slides on SOUTHERN INDIANA. Mr. Low had a full house and an attentive audience. The Editor came away particularly impressed with his shot of the George Rogers Clark Memorial Bridge at Vincennes- a symphony in concrete- if viewed from the lower level. This, one must do, he explained, if you are to enjoy the beauty and architecture of a bridge. Last but not the least were his views in and around Westport, bearing out the fact that part of our heritage is at home. Thank you, Mr. Low, for another evening of fine entertainment.

TOMMY THOMSON- Writes that his grandfather Orville Thomson, who was born in 1823, told him that the oldest house in Greensburg, was located at the Southwest corner of Railroad and East Streets. His grandfather further stated that when he was 12 years old, that the house was a full log cabin. Tommy goes on to say that about the turn of the century, it was still a log cabin. Today it is a modest little frame house- covered with weather boards to deceive you.

DID YOU KNOW- In 1895 Washington township had thirteen rural schools participating in the second annual Closing Exercises and Commencement. This affair began at 9:00 A. M. with a grand march from the Court House to the Rink Opera House led by the Greensburg Brass Band. The morning session was devoted to recitations and music with all of the schools taking part. The program for the occasion indicates that forty-eight numbers were offered!!!! Commencement held in the afternoon (we assume) again consisted of musical numbers and declamations by the graduates. There was no featured speaker. Trustee James E. Caskey presented the diplomas. The teachers by districts were as follows-

Clara Lambert	1	Mamie Foster	8
Minnie Miller	2	Gertie Walker	9
Bertha Doles	3	Mable Kerchavel	10
Kate Dawson	4	T. M. Clark	11
Glant G. Welsh	5	Mary Terhune	11
W. F. Gilchrist	6	Jessie Donnell	12
Bert Morgan	7	Helen Rankin	13

\* \* \* \* \*

THIS AND THAT- The first railroad accident occurred in Adams in 1859. One person injured. Two horses killed....Early settlers of Adams twp. were the Heatons, Tanners, Zeiglers, Isleys, Shelhorns, Adkins, McCartys, Robisons, Pearces, Petersons and the Pauls....Elijah Davis is credited with being the first settler in Sand Creek twp. He is known to have had a tract of land there in 1820....It is logical to assume that that Westport was named after Westport, Kentucky....During the Civil War, all of Westport's town officers enlisted in the Union Army, leaving that town without any government....The V. G. & R. Ry. was completed in 1880. The Southern Indiana Ry. came in 1892....Harris City quarries provided some 3,000 carloads of limestone for the Statehouse at Indianapolis....The first train to pass through



Greensburg made its first run in the summer of 1853. By November it was possible to take a train to Lawrenceburg, thence to Cincinnati by boat....Decatur County has an area of 241,920 acres....The official seal of Decatur County features a nightingale with a bough in its mouth....Salt Creek twp. was organized Sept. 5, 1836. In the early period farmers were unable to raise hogs there with any degree of success until the bears were exterminated. Robert Ross and John Harding were the first to locate there in the early 1820s....New Point once was known officially as Roszburg P. O....Mail facilities for Greensburg and Decatur County were established in 1822....On June 14, 1916 the D. A. R. dedicated a marker at the intersection of Michigan Avenue and North Ireland Street, to commemorate the Michigan State Road surveyed 1828-1830 and completed in 1837....

The first store in Fugit twp. was opened at Springhill in 1823 by James Conwell of Franklin County....Clarksburg had a street fair with ferris wheel, merry-go-round and all during the teens....Booth Tarkington, noted Hoosier novelist, frequently visited his grandfather Tarkington at the farm home now occupied by Frank Nieman on U. S. 421 Northwest of Greensburg....Edwin May designed the present Decatur County courthouse. He was an associate in the design of the State Capitol....William Jennings Bryan here on a speaking tour in 1908 referred to the courthouse as "the finest specimen of Gothic architecture that he had seen in his travels throughout the world." Other authorities have called it Romanesque architecture....The clock face on the tower measures seven feet three inches in diameter....Decatur County was originally a part of Delaware County....Decatur County had 23 physicians and 12 lawyers in 1848. Today it has 10 physicians and 14 lawyers....The present county jail is the third of its kind, built in 1880....The 7th Indiana, a local regiment in the Civil War, has strong claims for saving Culp's Hill at the battle of Gettysburg....

Among other crops grown in Decatur County in 1881, were 1265 acres of flax and 186 bushels of cranberries. Cherries dried 44,411 gallons....Westport had no saloons after 1881, three prior to 1881....Newberry Wheeldon donated land and platted Forest Hill in 1852. Its original name was an adaptation of his name--Newburg....Decatur County had no roads to speak of until 1863.

THIS AND THAT, for the most part, was taken from the SESQUICENTENNIAL ISSUE of the Greensburg Daily News, consisting of 5 sections, dated August 18, 1966. Copies of the issue will be mailed anywhere in the U. S. for 25 cents. Remit to the Daily News. Highly recommended- ed.

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PARKER'S POND- If going from Greensburg, follow SR 3 and 46 to the junction West of Greensburg. Here turn left or South on SR 3. Continue South on SR 3 to the second cross road. (Look for a sign or a flag here) Turn right or West on a stone road. Go one-quarter mile. LOOK FOR THE FLAG POLE ON THE RIGHT.



## SOME REMINISCENCES ON THE SETTLEMENT OF DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA

By William W. Parker

In writing this history of Decatur County, I am repeating a small part of what has been recorded before. These are facts you already know, but some may have become dim in your memory. I decided to make this brief but soon realized that a brief history could not do justice to our county. Therefore I have attempted to confine my remarks to the early or primitive part of our settlement, that is the first ten or fifteen years.

I believe it right that we should think back and remind ourselves of the gratitude and debt we owe to these people, our ancestors, who, leaving friends and loved ones, pushed westward into the "New Purchase," opened up by the Treaty of St. Mary's, Ohio, in 1818. These men and women of yesterday, by their heroic efforts laid the foundation for our noble country.

Gladstone once wrote, "The man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do little to add credit to, or do honor to his country."

The hardships and unceasing labor that had to be endured to establish a home and rear a family in the primeval forests that shaded every acre of our country cannot now be understood or realized.

This change from the wild woods to our present state of civilization and cultivation has been wrought from the opening of the Land Office in Brookville, Indiana, on the first Monday of October, 1820.

### The First Settlers

Prior to the opening of the Land Office a few people were already living in the confines of our present county. They were known as "Squatters," who were mostly hunters and trappers, a restless people whom the spirit of adventure ever kept on the frontiers, in advance of civilization, brave, skilled in the mysteries of woodcraft, self-reliant, cool, and hospitable. On the opening of the Land Office some of these people moved on and others like John Fugit remained and entered the lands they were living on. It might be well to trace the migration of John Fugit from his home in the East to our county, for it describes the general pattern of the movement of the early settlers to the West.

John Fugit was born in West Virginia in 1770, where he lived until his marriage, when he moved to Floyd County, Kentucky, and a short time later, in 1808, to near Cincinnati. In 1810 we find him and his family living near Cedar Grove in Franklin county, Indiana, where he lived until 1818, when owing to the hostility of the Indians, they took refuge in the old fort eight miles west of Brookville. In the spring of 1819, he left his home on Pipe Creek and moved over on the "New Purchase." He built his cabin a mile east of what is now



Clarksburg. In 1825 he moved to near Turner's Corner in Clay Township and later to Milford, where he died in 1844. With the Fugits, who were a family of father, mother, six sons and three daughters, all who averaged over six feet in height, came the Griffy Griffiths, who settled one mile west of Clarksburg and Elias Jarrett, who settled near the Fugits. (This information was furnished by Mrs. Mary Fugit Garrison who was living in Greensburg in 1880.)

### Surveying or Laying Out the New County

In the early part of 1820, the Federal Government sent out surveyors to lay out the new county, named in honor of Commodore Stephen Decatur.

The work was done by Thomas Hendricks and Samuel Huston, assisted by Jacob and Silas Stewart, John Gageby and Samuel Logan.

As we visualize the dense forests, the uneven terrain, the streams and swamps, it is amazing at the accuracy of the job done by these men. Errors in their surveying are very evident by the offset of a few feet or even several rods in the corners of farms or the jogs in the roads. When the roads were laid out and built, the builders usually followed the regular boundary lines and we had many right or left corners or jogs as they were often called. These right angled turns were not too bad in the "horse and buggy days" but with the advent of the automobile were the cause of so many accidents that many have been changed from angles to curves. Many of us can remember when the curve on State Road 3 at North Bend Plaza was two right angled corners.

The roads of the county were merely marked trails mostly radiating from Greensburg. Some pretty well followed the boundary lines, such as the road to Milroy, but usually they took off in the general direction of the outlying settlements. Early roads went to Milroy, Clarksburg, Brookville, Vernon, Hartsville, Milford, St. Omer, and Layton's Mill, later known as Slabtown. This road became a part of the "Old Michigan Road." An early trail was blazed from the Flatrock River bottoms through Clarksburg to Brookville.

Although the economic condition of the county was rapidly improving little if anything was being done to "lift us out of the mud and mire," until 1863, when a petition was presented to the County Commissioners for the improvement of the Vernon Road from Greensburg to the Washington-Marion Township line. Soon 60 more miles were authorized.

### Entering of the Land

The first Land Patent was issued to John Shellhorn in the northwest part of the county, between Big and Little Flatrock Rivers. Those of us in the 1964 fall tour of our Historical Society will recall seeing this original patent and the plat of Rockville, a town the Shellhorns laid out on this land. They visioned Rockville as the county seat of our county and laid out a public square and several streets, among them Main, Walnut, Water, Mulberry and Market. After the boundary lines of the county were finally determined, the county seat was laid



out by John Potter, on land entered by Thomas Hendricks, and at the request of Mrs. Hendricks, tradition says, was called Greensburg in honor of her old home in Pennsylvania.

From the opening of the land office in Brookville on the first Monday in October, 1820, to December 31, 1820, 153 patents were issued for lands in this county. We might mention the names of a few of these early patent holders whose names are familiar to us today. The names of Linville, Rankin, Martin, Hopkins, Throp, Drake, Doles, Hendricks, Jewitt, Shellhorn, Kemble, Logan, McCoy, Donnell, Meek, Critzer, Hamilton, and many others. Altogether from October 3, 1820 to December 31, 1825 (four years and three months) 761 patents were issued for lands in this county. These people, our ancestors, made this county one of the foremost in our state.

It was fortunate that little, if any of this land was taken up by non-resident speculators, who could patiently wait in their distant homes for the actual settlers, by their labors to make these lands valuable.

This condition caused much bitterness and disappointment in Kentucky. This and opposition to slavery caused many Kentuckians, among whom was Thomas Lincoln and his family, to move to Indiana.

#### Organization of the New County

John Fugit was a Justice of Peace in Franklin County and on moving to this county brought his credentials with him and, while possibly not strictly legal, continued to represent the law here. On the organization of the county he was elected one of the first Associate Judges. These judges served as advisors to the Judge, who usually represented several counties. In the absence of the Judge, which was often, they had the authority to carry on the business of the court.

In May of 1822, the first board of commissioners was sworn in by Henry Talbott, who had been appointed Clerk of the County by Governor Jennings. The first matter of business was the division of the county into townships which was as follows: Fugit on the east, Adams on the west, and Washington in between, all extending the full length of the county. As the population increased, these townships were redivided until there were nine. The board appointed three constables, a superintendent of schools, a County Treasurer, a lister of taxes, and an overseer of the poor. They decided what prices the tavern keepers could charge their customers. They also ordered that elections be held in the townships for Justices of the Peace.

#### The Settlement of the Land

Because of better drainage, the land along the streams was taken up first. The frontiersman wanted good soil, good timber and a good site for his cabin, usually near a stream. If there was no spring he could dig an open well and have plenty of water. The partly filled depression of an old well often marks the only clue to the location of an early cabin. Sometimes the men came first, built the cabin and went



back for their families, but more often the entire family came at one time with all their worldly possessions, living in bark or skin shelters until the cabin was finished.

The first cabins, due to the urgency of a roof over their heads, were very crude, some with only three sides. The normal size was about sixteen by twenty feet, made of round logs notched at the corners. The roof was made of clapboards, usually split out of oak, one half inch thick, eight or ten inches wide and four feet long. These rested on poles and were kept in place by similar poles laid on top and tied down. A fireplace of round sticks plastered with mud was built in on end. No wonder so many early cabins were destroyed by fire. Early floors were of dirt, later covered by puncheons, which were split timber made as smooth as possible with the axe and adze. A door was made of thin split timber pinned to cross pieces and hung with leather hinges and secured with the traditional latch string. The window was made by cutting out a section of log and covering the opening with a scraped skin or oil paper in winter and leaving it open in summer. It is truly remarkable what these sturdy pioneers could accomplish with only an axe, a saw, and various sizes of augers. No nails, glass, brick or sawed lumber was available for these primitive homes. The furniture was made with the same tools.

With the advent of more settlers, many of whom were skilled workmen, houses were built of hewn logs, some even of stone and brick. Grist mills, sash saw mills, cabinet shops, tanneries, woolen mills and blacksmith shops began to appear and the economic condition of the people rapidly improved.

#### Clearing the Land--Work of the Men

After completion of the new home, the men, often aided by the women, began the clearing of the land. Three methods were used. One was to clear it "smooth" by cutting down and burning all the trees and undergrowth at one time. Another and most used method was to cut and burn all trees and underbrush under eighteen inches in diameter and deaden by girdling the remaining trees. After the first year some crops were raised in these clearings. The easiest way, if such was possible, was to deaden the entire tract, wait five years, and then go in with axe and fire to complete the job.

House, barn raisings and log rollings were pretty much a community effort, neighbors coming from miles around for these events.

I will never forget stories told me by Uncle Tommy Meek, grandfather of Mr. Homer Meek, who lived next door to us in Greensburg, around the turn of the century. He was a powerfully built man and prided himself on being selected to carry up one end of the logs. He mentioned gearing up the old mare in the fall and leaving the harness on all winter so as to be ready to slide in a shock of fodder on the sled whenever needed. Log rolling was a term used to describe the rolling or piling of logs in piles for burning or rolling into ravines to get them out of the way of the plow.



Mr. George Sefton, who at one time owned the land now belonging to Mr. Emmert Maple in Clinton Township, told me of the many fine logs he helped destroy. To the settlers they were weeds standing in the way of food for him and his family.

### Work of the Women

The labor of the men was hard, but that of the women was equally hard. All of the cooking and baking was done in the open fireplace and they were directly exposed to the direct heat and often the smoke was unbearable. They spun the tow, flax and wool which was woven on a loom into cloth for their garments.

The big and little spinning wheels were found in every home. On the small wheel was spun the tow and flax. Thread from which the sheets, towels, table cloths, shirts, pants and numerous other garments were made. On the large wheel the wool was spun to be used in making the blankets, flannels, jeans, linseys, stockings etc. The wool was sometimes washed in a hewn trough, tramped by the children, changing the water frequently. The women were very ingenious in coloring or dyeing the wool. The white wool made white yarn. The black fleese, the black. Often three shades of black were obtained from one fleece. Colors were obtained mostly from native plants. Black walnut and butternut hulls made a dark and light brown dye, saffron yellow, blood root red, sassafras pink and indigo blue. Blue was a very popular color. The name "Blue Jeans" has been carried down to the present day.

Lye was a very important item. It was made by saving the liquid after water was drained through hardwood ashes in a wooden trough. This was mixed with fats to make soap. Lye was also used in removing the corn hulls, in the making of hominy, a very important food to the settlers.

The stately sugar maples, abundant over most of the county, supplied sap for molasses and on further boiling, crystallized into maple sugar. To my knowledge there were no salt licks in this county, so salt had to be imported.--Continued in next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

If the U. S. Postal Zip Code does not appear on the address label of this Bulletin - or if it is incorrect, please notify the Recording Secretary:

Miss Helen Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Indiana - 47240

The Post Office asks that the Zip Code be a part of each address. And we feel sure that you do not want to miss a copy of the Bulletin.

If you wish to join "the Early Birds of '67" you may send your 1967 dues to Miss Bussell at the same time. Your 1967 membership card will be mailed to you.

Thank you!



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THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 30

Greensburg, Indiana

November 26, 1966

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Raymond Carr  
Mrs. Marie Scheidler  
Mrs. Ina Coombs  
Mr. Russell Thornburg  
Mrs. Ethel Thornburg  
Mrs. Alma Kirby  
Mrs. William M. Metz 559

PRESIDENT PARKER'S COMMITTEES  
FOR THE DINNER AS FOLLOWS-

NOMINATING - Mary Hamilton, Ch.  
Mariam Brown  
Donna Hatfield

AUDITING -- Helen Osborn  
Dorothy Shannon

DECORATING - Marcia Batterton  
Janet Fogg  
Carol Meek  
Kathryn Meek

FOOD ----- Margaret Shazer

TICKETS ---- Mary Beeson  
Mabel Hurt

CALLING ---- Vivian Batterton  
Glenn Gilchrist  
Anna Paul Lowe  
Helen Marlin  
Mary Rutherford

DISPLAY ---- Frank Guilkey  
Paul H. Huber  
Frank Marlin  
Charles Osburn

RECEPTION -- Mr. & Mrs. Loren Garner  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul H. Huber  
Mr. & Mrs. Walter B. Lowe  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Marlin

OCCASION: Eighth Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election of  
Officers  
SPEAKER: Hubert H. Hawkins,  
Director, Indiana Historical  
Bureau and Secretary,  
Indiana Historical Society  
DATE: Saturday, December 3, 1966  
at 6:30 P.M.  
PLACE: Greensburg High School,  
505 E. Central Avenue,  
Greensburg, Indiana.  
Entrance on Lathrop St.  
opposite Gymnasium

RESERVATIONS

If you have not already been contacted,  
please call any one on the calling  
committee (which is listed elsewhere  
in this issue) not later than  
Wednesday Nov. 30th. if you plan to  
attend the dinner. Tickets are \$1.75  
each and are to be obtained at the  
door.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO COME FOR  
DINNER, FEEL FREE TO ATTEND THE  
MEETING LATER. EVERYBODY IS  
WELCOME!!

Mr. Hawkins who was the speaker at  
our first meeting held June 5th.,  
1959 comes again to help us celebrate  
INDIANA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY. A native  
of Marion County, a history major,  
college professor and currently the  
secretary of the Indiana Historical  
Society, Mr. Hawkins is eminently  
qualified to speak on any subject  
in his field. Plan to attend and hear  
this outstanding Hoosier.



THE LAST MEETING--This was the fall meeting held at Parker's Pond. Miss Winifred Armstrong, a retired teacher spoke to the group on the early schools of Decatur County. Coming from an old Sand Creek township family, and a large family- her ancestors teachers before her, her father a township trustee, Miss Armstrong knew whereof she spoke. Her paper was well researched. But the choice moments came when she departed from the text long enough to tell in her own inimitable way some of the funny but true happenings of her years in the class room... A teacher of the old school, Miss Armstrong described the discipline or lack of discipline in the schools of today but otherwise recognized that these are changing times and that the problems are many more and more complex... Hers was one of the better papers to be presented the Society and we are hoping that it may appear in the BULLETIN at a later date.... In keeping with the occasion, a spelling match was held afterward with Mrs. Chas. Loucks pronouncing the words. The speller, all former champions, took RENSSELAER and ASAFOETIDA in their stride but ASSASSIN laid them low. Mr. Chas. Osburn successfully spelled the word and remains the champion.

SPEAKING OF FAR AWAY PLACES--(Mrs.) Carol S. Moffatt, writing for the Webster Papers Project, Baker Memorial Library, Hanover, New Hampshire (Dartmouth College) would appreciate copies of any letters by or to Daniel Webster, and/or other manuscript material pertaining to the famous statesman. Strange to say, memorabilia of this sort often does bob up in the most unheard of places. Members please comply if you have information.

MINERVA MORRIS- Mrs. Morris died in Indianapolis on December 23, 1928 at the age of 102. The subject of a medical research program in factors affecting longevity, she had a grand-son Richard Morris - who JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL, Baltimore, Md. believes was a doctor in Greensburg. They would also appreciate any information about Mrs. Morris, her husband and her children. Address any replies to the editor of the BULLETIN. Added note- The editor has knowledge of a Dr. Frederick S. Morris, who was born in Greensburg and who later became a famous surgeon in Pittsburg.

WANTED: Postcard pictures of Indiana court houses signed by the sender, for a future display and eventually to go into the archives of the Society. Please address them- Editor of the BULLETIN  
Decatur County Historical Society  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

CRAVER- Mrs. Jos. Edgar Craver, RFD 1, Monroeville, New Jersey, would appreciate information of the Craver family. Joseph Craver and Susannah, his wife, stopped in Indiana in Franklin and Decatur Counties in the fifties. A child, Joseph Abbott Craver was born in Indiana in 1854. Please write to her direct.



## COUNTY STRUCK TWICE BY CYCLONES

Two cyclones have been recorded in Decatur County, the first in Sandcreek Township, the other in Adams Township. In the latter catastrophe a young man was decapitated when a flying plank struck him. That was in 1875 and was recalled by old residents of the St. Paul and Germantown communities less than twenty years ago.

The earlier instance, 1838, was lost to history until revealed in old family papers kept by the late Rev. J. H. Meredith, a county native who died in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Meredith said pioneers called it the "Big Wind". It struck first in the edge of Jackson Township, roaring over into Sandcreek and pursued a course alternately in a straight line and as a twister. Both of Mr. Meredith's grandfathers lost their homes in the sudden disaster.

Much of the story was told by his uncle, Jesse Christman, who had lived with his family in a log cabin in a clearing. Very tall trees surrounded the clearing.

It was about 10 at night when lightning and thunder came with suddenness, Christman said, and the wind was so terrific that the family could not hear each other speak. The cabin's one door was jammed by a huge tree limb so that it could not be opened. After the storm had abated to some extent he crawled out of the small window. When morning came oxen were hitched to the branch but could not move it. Eventually it was chopped away.

Meredith's grandfather, Jonathan Robbins, said that the family worst afflicted was that of Noah Merriman, whose cabin was crushed while nine persons were inside. Merriman was crippled for life, but the others escaped injury.

The area affected was between Letts and Westport. The storm blew itself out before doing much damage in Marion Township.

-- Smiley Fowler



## EAGLES VS. CARDINALS

In the early 1920s the Eagles baseball team attained a high place among the state's amateurs. As a civic promotion it stood on a par with the Tower Tree in the estimation of the Businessmen's Association.

At the height of its fame the manager, Bill Dinsmore, received a communication from the St. Louis Cardinals, saying that the Cards would be traveling to Cleveland on a certain date and would be glad to stop over in Greensburg for a warm-up session.

The big day came, and Littell's ball park was packed an hour before the play started.

The Cardinals manager, in a confidential chat with Dinsmore, inquired: "How would you like the game to come out?"

Bill, less noted for his modesty than for his managerial ability, advised him firmly: "You fellows play your game and we'll play ours!"

Well, my memory is hazy about the exact score, but let it be said that the Cards were a jolly bunch of good-natured fellows and enjoyed a leisurely practice session.

---Ex-Fan.



2

SOME REMINISCENCES ON THE SETTLEMENT OF DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA  
(Continued from the last issue)

EARLY AGRICULTURE

The early agriculture was very crude and difficult. After the land was first cleared, the many stumps and intertwining roots made use of the plow impossible, so the work was done mostly by the hoe. In spite of this, due to the wonderful fertility of this virgin soil, some crops were produced the first year and good crops the second year. Wheat was broadcast by hand and drug in with a husky limb. There is a record of some wheat being produced in the Flat Rock River bottoms, in 1822. This was harvested by a reaphook or a cradle and threshed out with a frail or tramped out by horses or oxen, the same method used in Biblical times.

The hogs, usually marked as to ownership, were turned out in the spring, to fend for themselves. By fall if the mast was plentiful, some might weigh as much as one hundred twenty-five pounds and were ready for butchering. The round-up of these semi-wild hogs was quite an event and took the combined effort of the men and boys of the entire community. There was often quite a bit of controversy as to the ownership of the hogs.

The round-up of the cows at milking time was a duty of the boys and girls. Bells were hung around the cows necks, so they would give their whereabouts away and be easier found.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

Before the advent of grist mills, the grain for meal was either taken to Brookville, by horseback, a four day journey, or pounded by hand in a mortar, a method learned from the Indians. Soon many mills began to appear along the streams of the County. These early mills were very crude, little more than corn crackers. The ground grain being bolted or sifted by hand. Most mills were powered by water, but a few used horsepower. A steam mill was built in Clay Township and one, one mile west of Greensburg in the eighteen thirties.

John Paul is credited with building the first mill in the county, at a site on Mill Creek northeast of St. Paul. Among the prominent millers were the Critzers, Eli Critzer built a mill south of Milford in 1826. This writer remembers taking corn to this mill in the early part of the century to be ground into meal. At this time the mill was still using waterpower and was operated by Mr. Bert Sanders, son-in-law of the Critzers.

This mill and the Picayune mill at Downeyville, bring fond memories of many school time picnics. No school term was hardly complete without the picnic on the last day. Al Waybright or Alec Trindle furnishing the transportation in their two horse backs.



Saw mills, tan yards, woolen mills, brick yards and cabinet shops began to appear. James Gageby came in 1821 and opened a cabinet shop on the northwest corner of the public square in Greensburg. A log hotel was built on the present site of the Taylor Hotel. Henry Talbott was an early storekeeper. John and Martin Jamison were hatters. John Layton was handy with tools and opened a shop southeast of Greensburg and made all sorts of necessary articles, as flex breaks, spinning wheels, plow woods, ox yokes, looms, etc. He also built a "rope walk" and made rope and twine, from a variety of nettle which grew in abundance in the low lands. This nettle was also used as a substitute for flax for the manufacture of linen. John House of south of Greensburg was a gun smith and also done mill work and blacksmithing.

These are but a few of the many industries springing up in the early years of the new county.

Since whiskey was thought to be indispensable, still houses were erected very early, often as many as five or six in a township. At least it was a simple means of disposing of the surplus grain.

#### CHURCH HISTORY

Notwithstanding the hardships and worries of backwoods life, these people were very religious. They brought their religion with them and practiced it wherever they were. The circuit riders of the Gospel were always welcome and were treated with respect. So our church history begins with the first settlers.

The Sandcreek Baptist Church was the first organized church in the county, organized in January 1822. In the same year the Kingston Presbyterian Church was founded under the name "Sandcreek Church. The Springhill Presbyterian Church followed in 1825.

The first Methodist sermon was delivered in March, 1822, at the double log cabin of Thomas Hendricks, the only house on the site of Greensburg. In 1831 a Christian Church was organized at Clarksburg, known as the Church of Christ at Saltcreek. There were around 15 organized churches in the county by 1835.

#### SCHOOL HISTORY

It was early recognized that religion, morality and knowledge were necessary for good government. So schools and the means of education were early encouraged.

When Congress, in 1804, passed the Act ordering the sale of public lands in Indiana, there was a proviso by which every 16th section, in each township was set aside for support of schools, and to apply any funds raised on these lands to be used for school purposes. The early schools were either "kept" in a home or in a log structure built in the community, and seldom lasted more than a few weeks in the year.



These were usually subscription schools. A number of parents combining to hire a teacher, some who could barely read or write themselves. As a rule, however, they were experts with the hickory switch. These early schools struggled along, doing a pretty good job with the adverse conditions of these times, until in 1851 a new State Constitution was adopted, by which free public schools were ordered and the education of the children was rapidly advanced. About the only thing in common between these early students and our present students is neither has to climb stairs.

#### FRONTIER PESTS AND AFFLICTIONS

The early settlers had to contend against invisible as well as visible foes. No part of America, outside of the tropics was more subject to malaria than were the lands of our state. The dense forests, in whose damp shade, accumulations of rotting leaves, fallen timber and other vegetable remains, with the swamps of stagnant putrid water, made an ideal condition for the spread of malaria or "ague".

The suffering from the chills and high fever of malaria is a most pathetic part of our history. Almost every family was stricken with some form of the disease. So dreadful was this disease it would often last for months or even years. This continued until the land was cleared of the forests, and the swamps drained by open and tile ditches.

There was a mysterious and fatal disease called "Milk-sick", from which people and livestock died in great numbers. It was thought to have been caused by the use of milk, butter or cheese from cows which had grazed on some poisonous plant. Nancy Hanks Lincoln was a victim of this disease.

Venomous reptiles also took their toll. Rattlesnakes and copper-heads, the only known poisonous snakes in our county were so numerous the settler and his family had to be always alert. Horses, cows and even dogs fell victim to the venom of these reptiles. For some reason hogs are mortal enemies of snakes, and immune to the venom. They aided greatly in the elimination of this menace. Whiskey was considered the best remedy and was administered in large draughts to the victim.

Harding, in his history of our county recounts the killing of several hundred rattlesnakes, in one day near the grist mill of John Paul on Mill creek in Adams township.

Consumption, croup, inward cancer, mortification (Gangrene) and pneumonia were prevalent.

Work in the woods was very hazardous. Many a settler was crushed to death or crippled for life by falling trees or limbs.

I realize I must bring this paper to a close, yet there is so much more that could be written and probably should.



I have not mentioned anything about the recreation or fun on the frontier, and we do know that they were a fun loving people.

Many are the stories of the husking bees, the quilting parties, the spelling bees, the wrestling matches, the foot races, the turkey shoots, etc. Also the many interesting and amusing anecdotes that could be recounted.

I hope if someone should read these pages, they will get a sense of how interesting the story of our county really is.

I have enjoyed the research and the writing of these pages and if no one, beside myself should read them, I will feel amply repaid.

WILLIAM W. PARKER. 1965



THE TREE ON THE TOWER

In dear old Decatur County  
There's a treasure we each hold dear,  
It's known all over the country  
And it's fame is known far and near.

The fame of this wonderful tree  
Stands as a symbol to you and me,  
For, it is an out-standing land-mark  
This wonderful high-towering tree.

We are thankful, that one day wasplanted  
A seed in the Court House tower,  
That God cherished and watered  
Until it came forth to flower.

Now, as the years have gone by  
And the tree in its glory still stands,  
On the Court-House-Tower, in Greensburg  
Cared for by loving hands.

We hail thee dear tree on the tower  
We pray, for-ever you stand,  
Triumphant there, through the years  
And in all of our hearts, in the land.

Mary Lue Miller

Mrs. Miller is the daughter of the former Dr. John L. Smith  
who practiced in Clarksburg when Earl Jarrard lived there as a boy.  
We hope to hear from her again. Ed.

HOBBY SHOW- If you have a hobby, bring something that will portray  
what you do in your spare time- or better still call a member of the  
committee, and he will pick it up, so that the item will be displayed  
properly. Who knows what our President's hobby is? Wait and see!!

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Members can still qualify as EARLY BIRDS by paying their 1967  
dues at the Dinner Meeting!!!



THE WILLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume II - No. 31

Greensburg, Indiana

March 18, 1967

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Mary Lue Miller--Rushville  
Mrs. L. E. VanArsdall  
Mr. Willard Low  
Mrs. Willard Low  
Mr. John Mitchell  
Mrs. Tillie Black  
Mrs. Ralph Throp  
Mr. Dale Schaffer--Chicago 567

\* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1967

President.....Grant Henderson  
1st V-President....Gene H. McCoy  
2nd V-President....Paul O. Jolliff  
Corresponding Secy...Mrs. Van  
Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Recording Secy.....Miss Helen K.  
Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer...Miss Alpha E. Thackery  
RFD 6, Greensburg, Ind.

OCCASION: Spring meeting

SPEAKER: Surprise! Suffice it to say that our new President has whipped up a program which promises to be both entertaining and different. It concerns something that is all about us--something that we use in our every-day lives!

DATE: Saturday, April 1, 1967  
at 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Billings Elementary School  
West Washington Street  
Greensburg, Indiana

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Please note that the Billings Elementary School is located on West Washington Street, just off US 421 to Indianapolis. There is ample parking East of the Building. NO SMOKING PLEASE! Those are the rules.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING--As always the local newspaper covered the story very well--so if you did not attend or do not take the paper--you are the loser. For those few, permit us to say that it was a grand evening and "the" social event of the year. Mr. Hubert Hawkins, secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, and a Hoosier to the core, quite appropriately devoted his talk for the greater part to the Indiana Sesquicentennial Year which had just closed. One of his stories had to do with the Indiana State Seal. Now you will recall that the Seal pictures a man hacking away at a beech tree, while in the foreground is a buffalo taking off for taller timber--and in the background the sun is coming up--No! not going down, for the sun never sets on Indiana and besides no fool would spend all day chopping down a beech tree. The moral, as he put it, is that you have to get up real early in Indiana if you want to see a buffalo.....Now not everyone knows that Decatur County has a Seal--that of THE DECATUR CIRCUIT COURT. Pictured is a jaybird floating aloft on a cloud, waving an olive branch in its beak or is it a ragweed? Who knows? And why a jaybird!!



LITTLE KILLBUCK\*  
(Franklin County Indian Lore)

By  
Grant Henderson

A clever writer, one to whom I have been so often indebted for many things, wise and otherwise, has told me that to be thrown upon one's own resources is to be cast into the very lap of fortune; for our faculties then undergo a wonderful development and display an energy of which they were previously unsusceptible. Our minds are, let us say, like cloves of garlic, which must be crushed before they evince their vigor and put forth their virtue.

So with the amateur historian when the trial of research engages his attention. From an anomaly of clues picked up, a few here, a few there, he must devise a tale more or less true, give or take an unintentional perversion now and then. So many events supposed to have taken place ages ago are imbedded so deeply in a mixture of legend and fact that the discriminating historian has, literally, to "beat the bushes" in his attempt to bring to the light of the present day sufficient information from which he may reconstruct a story that has at least a foundation of truth.

Such was my experience when I undertook to secure enough data to enable me to reanimate the story of what is said to have been the last Indian "uprising" in this area, the story in which the outstanding figure is "Little Killbuck", now and then referred to as "Bill Killbuck", and who was probably the last native Indian seen in Franklin county. The first shocking event took place, according to the information unearthed, in the Little Salt Creek neighborhood east of Buena Vista.

The date was March 13, 1813. Two young men, both of whom were little more than boys, Stafford and Toone (first names unknown) were clearing land for a Mr. John Baker, a minister, who lived in one of the two blockhouses in the area. Because of his residence there it was known locally as the "Baker Blockhouse", and was situated nearwhat is currently known as "Stipp's Hill". A second blockhouse, known as the "Bryson Blockhouse" in honor of the occupants thereof, stood about two miles north or northeast of the Baker blockhouse and on the opposite side of Little Salt Creek. Earlier, though when they were erected I was unable to learn, Territorial Governor, William Henry Harrison, had advised the residents of Franklin county to build a number of blockhouses at strategic points throughout the northwestern part of the county; though there had been no recent Indian trouble, Governor Harrison deemed it best that precautionary measures be taken, especially since a band of Delaware Indians had occupied for some time an area known locally as "the table-lands" about two miles north of the Baker blockhouse.



On the evening of the tragedy the boys were just completing work for the day, both chopping at the moment on the same tree, when four Indians, from where they lay concealed in a thicket, fired upon them. Both fell mortally wounded. Stafford, however, jumped up and managed to make his way to the Baker blockhouse three quarters of a mile away. Toone, shot through the spinal column, unable to move, was scalped by one of the Indians and left to die.

Stafford, on arrival at the blockhouse, was found to be shot through the stomach and one lung. Toone's cries for help could be heard throughout the night, but Mr. Baker and the few other men in the blockhouse hesitated to go to his rescue fearing that a band of Indians awaited them. Near morning, however, a runner was sent to the Bryson blockhouse to request aid. He returned with Hugh Bryson, a brawny twenty-three year old lad, who had a bit of a reputation as an Indian fighter and tracker. With Bryson leading them a half-dozen men went out and brought young Toone in. No Indians had been seen or heard. Then Bryson and three companions prepared to go after the Indians. Legend tells us that two of his companions were James Halsey and Robert Langister--the name of the other man has been forgotten. At the scene of the tragedy Bryson surveyed the area carefully and then he and his followers took the trail of the Indians which led in a northwesterly direction. At first it was a slow painstaking task for young Bryson but on the third day, near evening, he told his three companions that he was certain that they weren't far from the Indians. Having the men conceal themselves, he stole forward alone to reconnoiter. In not too long a time he returned and told them that the Indians were encamped in a draw about one-half mile ahead. The white men decided to wait until daybreak to make the attack. While his companions slept, Bryson kept watch. Near dawn he aroused them and together they slowly stole nearer and nearer the Indian camp. They found the Indians already astir. The Indian hunters crept on; when they thought themselves near enough for effective work they sprang to their feet and opened fire. Three of the Indians fell, the fourth ran towards the river--Blue River, in the neighborhood of what is now Morristown, Indiana--and another, not too severely wounded, leaped to his feet and followed. Bryson and his men ran in pursuit and Bryson overtook the wounded Indian near the river's edge. The redskin begged for mercy but none was shown. Bryson shot and scalped him. Meanwhile, the uninjured Indian had plunged into the river and made his way across. However, he had barely emerged on the opposite side when Halsey, who had been loading his rifle, shot him through the heart, crossed the river and scalped him. They then returned to take the scalps of the two Indians left dead or dying--so they thought, in the draw. But one of them was gone; unhit, it was learned later, he had dropped at the first crack of the rifles and then made his escape while the white men were engaged with the escaping Indians. And so well had he concealed his trail that even the skillful Bryson was unable to follow it.



Bryson and his men returned to Franklin County as soon as they could and told their story. Meanwhile both Stafford and Toome had passed away, both dying in the Baker blockhouse. Services for the boys were held by the Rev. John Baker, and the boys, placed in homemade coffins, were buried in a bit of highland just east of the blockhouse. No stones or markers of any kind mark the boys' graves, though not too many years ago some of the elderly men in the Stipp's Hill area were said to be able to point out the grave sites.

Some time after the "massacre" on Blue River it was noted by the residents of the Little Salt Creek country that Little Killbuck, a well-known brave of the nearby Delaware band, no longer was seen in the area. Prior to this time he had been often seen. The fact that he no longer came looked suspicious. He had been something of a bully, of course. No white man cared for his company. To be sure, most of the other Indians had been merely tolerated; a few, however, were well kiked by the whites. But not Little Killbuck. No one regretted his absence, but they "smelt a mouse". Why did he suddenly shun the Baker blockhouse neighborhood? Rumor had it that he was spending his time in the Sane's Creek hills west of Laurel.

About this time one dark and stormy night a band of robbers -- or Indians -- it was anyone's guess -- attempted to break into the John Criss home which stood on the west side of Little Salt Creek and almost directly opposite the Bryson blockhouse. Criss stood by to try to repel the invaders in the event that the door gave way, while his wife rushed to place a lighted lamp in front of an upstairs window -- a "sign" that, understood by the Brysons through previous arrangement, meant "trouble here. Help needed. Hurry!" Young Hugh Bryson, aroused by another member of his family, dressed hurriedly and dashed out, rifle in hand. For a moment he hesitated at the bank of the stream on account of high water, then he plunged in and, fortunately, made his way across with less trouble than anticipated. Not certainly understanding the situation, fearing that the marauders, whoever they were, were about to gain entry into the Criss home, he fired almost immediately upon gaining the west bank. The culprits dashed away. Who had they been? Later it was learned that a wounded Indian was "taking things easy" in the Sane's Creek hills. Had he been one of the gang at the Criss cabin that night? Was it Little Killbuck and his companions that Hugh Bryson had fired upon?

By 1818 all the Indians, excepting Little Killbuck, had left Franklin County, moved west to a reservation. Little Killbuck remained in the Sane's Creek hills. However, he had grown somewhat bold again and was frequently seen in the Stipp's Hill and Little Salt Creek areas. Though it was never proven, possibly not even inquired into because of lack of evidence, it was believed by a considerable number of people that Cornelius Bryson, one of Hugh's brothers, was murdered by Little Killbuck. According to the story as it comes down to us



today, Cornelius Bryson picked up his rifle one evening and started out to try to locate a wild turkey heard calling deep in the woods. He was never seen or heard of again. Little Killbuck, it was known and angrily commented upon, was adept at imitating the call of the wild turkey.

Some time between 1818 and 1820, Hugh Bryson and Little Killbuck chanced to meet in a store in one of the local villages. Legend doesn't tell us which one; possibly it no longer exists. No matter. Little Killbuck had been drinking and was inclined to be overbearing. Bryson ignored him. Little Killbuck grew bolder, and finally began to boast about his shrewd escape from Bryson and his companions in the marsh along Blue River several years before. Bryson pricked up his ears. This was the first "proof" that anyone had that Little Killbuck was one of the murderers of Stafford and Toone. Was it true? Bryson, for one, didn't care -- much. Perhaps "it was the drink talking" but Bryson was only too glad to take the Indian's word. As soon as he could, and as quietly as he could, he consulted a few other men, men that he believed could be depended upon. Would they help? They would. They thought as little of the brutal Killbuck as did Bryson. They would hang him. Good riddance anyway, true story or not. But it wasn't, after all, Little Killbuck's time to die. This time he "smelt a mouse" and slipped unobtrusively away.

Things quieted down. In a few months Little Killbuck was very much in evidence again, going almost where and when he pleased, hunting, drinking, boasting. Some time in the spring of 1820 he went to the Bryson blockhouse and induced John, Hugh's younger brother, to go hunting with him. John's father tried to talk the boy out of going-- he felt it dangerous at any time to be too friendly with Little Killbuck, but he was especially worried on this occasion because the Indian had been drinking. But John wouldn't listen. He didn't want Little Killbuck to think that he was afraid to go. So off they went. After a bit of time passed, John's father, still suspicious and worried, sat out to follow. Shortly thereafter he heard voices raised in apparent argument -- or anger, and eacing cautiously forward he made it to a point that placed him quite near his son and the Indian. Little Killbuck was certainly drunk; he was shouting and gesturing, telling young John in no uncertain terms what he meant to do to his brother, Hugh, sooner or later. The elder Bryson, knowing that the Indian was too drunk to give the matter any particular thought, calmly walked out of his place of concealment and up to the two hunters. And just as calmly he knocked the drunken red man down, took his gun, and returned home with John. Meanwhile, Hugh Bryson, off somewhere on private business, had heard that Little Killbuck had gone to the Bryson home. He didn't trust the Indian. He hurried home and arrived there about the time



that his father and young brother returned. He listened to their story. He said nothing. He went into the house, came out with his rifle and once more took the trail of Little Killbuck. However, the Indian had moved on, evidently he had moved rapidly in spite of his condition. Night came on and still Bryson hadn't come upon him. Hugh returned home. Next morning he set out again, following no trail this time, but heading directly for Little Killbuck's favorite haunts. He was determined to find him. And he did. Searching the Sane's Creek hills neighborhood he came upon the Indian late the same day. He was sitting on a log, back against a tree, near the Derbyshire Falls. Bryson shot him.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Among others, I wish especially to acknowledge my debt to the late Mr. Edgar Harley, whose notes on Franklin County Indian lore, loaned to me by his son, Mr. Clyde Harley, have proved of paramount value...The Author.

\* \* \* \* \*

OUR NEW PRESIDENT--Grant Henderson is a native of Franklin County and a charter member of the Society. A keen and observing student of Nature, he has written such works as "SONG OF THE WOODLARK", "FOUR-SQUARE LINES" and the latest of these "THE SHACK"--the titles all of which suggest the pastoral scene with which he is so familiar. He is a collector of rare books, particularly those by early Indiana authors, and has an extensive library. Outstanding as a naturalist, it is sheer delight for one to converse with Mr. Henderson on his favorite subject--the great outdoors. His livelihood comes from the collection, sales and distribution of plant life about him--Nature again affording him both a vocation and an avocation. As a poet, we like to think of him as "THE BARD OF BULL FORK"--this we say with all sincerity and respect for the lord and master of WOODLARKLAND--his home in the woods!

\* \* \* \* \*

SELF-SHARPENERS--"The county of Decatur, and its inhabitants, without making any special parade as to literature, morals or enterprise, may be said to be self-sharpeners, steadily progressing in a variety of ways, and not inferior in respectability to any part of the State." ca. 1870 ed.

\* \* \* \* \*



## SHOOTING IN THE NEW YEAR

The custom of "shooting in the New Year" is a memory of my childhood, in the Mt. Etna neighborhood, in southeastern Sultcreek Township. The young men of the neighborhood would gather early on New Year's Eve, at some one home in the neighborhood, decide on a Captain, and on the route to be taken for their shooting visits. Then, as the early darkness settled over the land, they started on their round. A stop was made at each home on the route, and their guns fired, along with cries of "Happy New Year." Such a noise as they did make. I always hated that part of it, especially if they got to our house in the wee small hours of the morning. All the families of the community were expecting them, and prepared refreshments -- but all acted as if it were a great surprise. When the shooting started, the man of the house went to the door, and with much "surprise" and small talk, invited the "shooters" as they were called, into the house for refreshments -- and to get warm by the big heating stoves or open fireplaces. I recall that my parents served doughnuts, popcorn balls, sweet cider, and hot coffee to the men. In my day I remember Allen Hart, Logan Alexander, Will Shouse, Clyde and Ora Parmer, Jim Castor, Tom Hartig, Arch and Bert Paramore among the "shooters."

My father, the late Ambrose Hickman, left me this account among his notes. "Shooting in the New Year was a great event in my childhood. Three of my older brothers were at home, Cash, Mort and France, and always took part in this New Year's eve affair, and would come home in the early light of New Years with great tales of adventure, mostly centered around the refreshments served. I longed for the time to go out shooting, but not until I was fourteen did my mother let me go. My brothers were not too anxious to take me even then, but because I played "fiddle" as a violin was called, I was allowed to tag along, as my brothers put it. It was a very cold night, and a deep snow was on the ground. I soon wished I had stayed at home. I do not remember where we went or who went along, except Little Ike Parmer, who was several years older than I was. Little Ike later married my sister Amazette - Am, as we called her. I do know I have never been so cold in my life, before or since. That New Year's Day - and it must have been 1880 - I spent the day lying on the floor back of the kitchen stove trying to get thawed out, and catch up on my sleep. I decided that never again would I go with New Year's shooters. But when I was some years older I did start going and then I thought we had a good time and I enjoyed it. My brother Mort played a bass fiddle, I played the first fiddle, and Ed Hart played the second fiddle. We three took our fiddles, and did not take guns. The rest of the men



did the shooting and we did the fiddling. After we were invited in we usually played several "request" pieces. If enough people were there, they usually danced a round or two to our music. Later, the three of us used to play at all the dances in our neighborhood, and we called ourselves a string band."

I do not remember when this custom ceased in our neighborhood, but the last one I have a memory of, that I can date, was 1905. I remember that year because Grover Harding of near New Point, was our teacher at the Mt. Etna school, and boarded in our home. I recall that he, and I think Ed Glidewell, who taught at the New Pennington school, joined the shooters that New Year's Eve, and like my father, of years before, they came home exhausted.

Whether this was done in other parts of Decatur County or Indiana I do not know. I have read that it was a custom in parts of Pennsylvania. Since coming to Virginia, I have been told that much the same custom existed in Highland County, near the West Virginia line. Here the guns were fired, then poetry was recited to the host, as he came to the door to invite the shooters in.

With no greeting cards to be sent, no telephones, no radios, no TV, shooting in the New Year was a means of communication, a means of wishing others a happy, healthy, prosperous New Year. It started us out on the New Year with a warm glow of good will.

Anna Lee (Hickman) Linville  
Lexington, Virginia

\* \* \* \* \*

A LEGEND--The Clonans and the Ballmans are gone, along with them the barracks, the band hall, the depot, the furniture factory, the tin shop, the drug store, the bank, the piling yard and the saw mill, the hardware store, the jewelry shop, the handle factory and the saloon.....Nothing remains of their day except something that is not prone to change---Tub Creek! There always, it will continue to be---Always. Any one who has ever lived in New Point knows that Tub Creek merely runs through the town; it never floods or drives people from their homes; that in its time, it abounded with sun fish, chubs and craws; that in winter, its icy surface is the delight of the younger fry and come summer time no hole is too deep for wading, which reminds us of an old legend....Many people have come to New Point, and as many have left, but rest assured---if they have ever waded in Tub Creek---some time, some day, they will return. They may not stay for long, but come back they will---if they have ever waded in Tub Creek!

\* \* \* \* \*



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 32

Greensburg, Indiana

June 20, 1967

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Miss Kathryn Woodfill 568

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1967

President.....Grant Henderson

1st Vice-Pres.....Gene H. McCoy

2nd Vice-Pres.....Paul O. Jolliff

Corresponding Secy.....Mrs. Van  
Batterton, 525  
North Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind

Recording Secy.....Miss Helen K.  
Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Ind

Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery  
RFD 6, Greensburg, Ind

OCCASION: Summer meeting

SPEAKER: Mr. Roy Grossman of  
Batesville is to be our  
speaker. He is a "rock  
hound". His subject  
"ROCKS". A special wel-  
come to all of the geol-  
ogists, lapidaries, and  
prospectors of the area!

DATE: Saturday night, June 24,  
1967 at 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Billings Elementary  
School, W. Washington  
Greensburg, Indiana

BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!  
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Please note that the Billings Ele-  
mentary School is located on West  
Washington Street, just off of US  
421 to Indianapolis. There is ample  
parking east of the building. NO  
SMOKING PLEASE! Those are the rules!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING - With our new President presiding for the first time, we were favored with a discussion and display of BOTTLES by Mr. Frank Thrine of Batesville. Having a collection of some five thousand bottles and a correspondent with other collectors, some as far away as Australia, Mr. Thrine knew his bottles - their era, their peculiarities of design, from whence they came - everything about bottles. Another of his talents not disclosed at the meeting, were his fine line drawings of some of his collection. He buys and sells. (Duplicates only for sale.) Mrs. Thrine was a guest.

ANOTHER GIFT - The Society has recently received a collection of photographs depicting the life and times of Greensburg circa fifty years ago. Interesting as always, they will be even more so in the years to come, thanks to the generosity of Mr. Charles Walls, a long-time member.

"KENTUCKY ANCESTORS" - This is a quarterly published by the Kentucky Historical Society. If interested in locating some of your forebears, consult the EDITOR for information about this unusual publication. It is most fascinating even for general reading. (Thanks to my Frankfort agent - ed.)



A TREK FROM SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP, DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA TO WESTERN KANSAS

Sources for this story are:

1. Notes left to me by my father, the late Ambrose Hickman.
2. Notes sent to me by my cousin, Kate Hickman Mason, whose parents and little brother made the journey.
3. Conversations with the late Minerva Littell Dowden, New Point, who was a relative.

I quote from my father's notes, "One very exciting event I remember from my childhood was when brother Jim and his wife and their small son left Indiana by covered wagon for the West. As I recall, it was the fall of 1879. Toss was a small child, perhaps two years old. My sister Am (Amazette) and I thought he was our special possession. On the morning the folks left, Am and I went up to the corner road north of our house to watch the wagons pull out. Five covered wagons, one after the other, left the farm lane, pulled into the "big road" as we called it, and headed West. What a sight that was for two youngsters! But the hard part for Am and me was to part with our little nephew, Toss. Am cried and said "We will never see Toss again!" I told her we still had Rose Davis - Rose being the little daughter of our older sister, Azelia Davis. That did not help Am very much. Well, we did see Toss again. Many years later I lived near brother Jim in Kansas for four years while Toss was growing into early manhood. Later Am and I each visited Toss several times in his own home in Kansas City. These families leaving was an event I never forgot and I think from that day forth, I resolved that some day I would go out West."

As I recall Daniel and Susan Agnew Anderson had four daughters. They lived about one half mile west of our home. Kate Anderson married John Paramore, Minerva married my brother Jim Hickman, Henrietta married John McConnell and Marietta married Harry Oakley. It seems to me that Harry Oakley and his wife and Sylvester Anderson and his family went out West about 1878 and as a result of this, others of the family developed "Western fever". So early in the fall of 1879 the five families consisting of the parents, Daniel Anderson and his wife, John and Kate Paramore and their three children, Jim and Minerva Hickman and their son, Toss, John and Henrietta McConnell and another Paramore family that I believe was Thomas Paramore, made up the wagon train going West to seek a new home site. All the relatives of these families were heartbroken at their going for they never expected to see any of them again, for it was a long and hard undertaking. Most of their fears proved right and they, for the most part, never saw them again.

Conversations with the late Minerva Littell Dowden told me of her reaction to her relatives leaving. She knew they would pass her home in New Point on their way westward. The morning they left she stayed in bed, listening for the sound of the wagons coming. When she heard them, she put a pillow over her head to shut out the sound of the wagons passing. She said she stayed in bed all morning crying, for she knew she would never see her relatives again. In later years, James Hickman came back to Indiana twice to see his family and each time he visited Mrs. Dowden. Kate Hickman Mason, who was born in Rocks County, Kansas, also visited several times in Indiana and always visited Mrs. Dowden. But as far as I can learn, none of them ever came back to Ind.



According to the records of Kate Hickman Mason, Sarcxie, Missouri, it took these families six weeks to reach Downs, Kansas. Here they stopped for the winter. The Missouri-Pacific Railroad was being put through and the men worked for the railroad that winter. In the spring the trek continued to Rooks County, Kansas near Logan, Kansas. Here they took up homesteading and started life anew on the Kansas praries. It was a hard life, hot dry summers, grasshoppers, cyclones, and cold winters and deep snows. One spring, Minerva Hickman set out a row of sycamore sprouts to provide shade in the summer and a windbreak in the winter. These sprouts grew and this avenue of trees certainly was, and perhaps still is, a true memorial to a pioneering mother.

In 1888 James and Minerva Hickman and their Hoosier born son, Toss, and Kansas born daughter, Kate, left Rooks County and settled in Boicout, Lynn County, Kansas. Here Mr. Hickman had a grocery and feed store. \*Henrietta McConnell went to Kansas City and became one of the pioneer women in the field of medicine. John Paramore and his wife, Kate Anderson, continued to make their home in Rooks County and reared a large family. Their children were Dan, Susie, Frank, John, Nancy, Joe, Minerva, Clarence and triplets that died in infancy.

In 1929, Kate Hickman Mason visited Rooks County, Kansas. Here she made contacts with several of the Paramore family. No doubt, there are still descendants living there from the original Paramore-Anderson family who took that long trek from Saltcreek Township, Decatur County, Indiana to Rooks County, Kansas in the years 1879-1880.

Thus Hoosiers and their descendants have scattered to various parts of the world. What an interesting story this might have been had one of the group kept a diary of the trek to pass on to their future generations.

Anna Lee Linville  
Lexington, Virginia  
May 15, 1967

ed-Excellent, Anna Lee, excellent!

\*This is the same Henrietta Anderson in the Mt. Etna school history previously printed in the Bulletin.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HISTORY OF THE SCHOOLS OF DISTRICT NO. 5 IN WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP, DECATUR COUNTY

The first schoolhouse built in this District was a log structure built sometime in the 1840's. Tradition fails to give the exact date of its erection. There still remained a few deers, wolves, and wild turkeys. This schoolhouse was situated on the farm now owned by Mr. Edd Templeton near where his barn now stands and was known as the Relief Schoolhouse. The old well that furnished water for the school now furnishes water for Mr. Templeton's stock.

One of the first teachers of this school was John Quincy Adams (but I suppose he was not the President). He has long since passed away. Mrs. Maggie Logan of near Kingston taught in the year 1865. The same year, Brumfield Turner was discharged from the Civil War and



attended school the following winter. Among some of the other pupils that attended school in those early days were Mrs. Charles Ainsworth, Mrs. George Fiscus and Thomas Bubanks.

In the year 1862 the pupils of the District had increased until the building was too small to accommodate the pupils. In this same year a lot was bought from John E. Robbins Sr. and on this site a one story brick house was built and has been known as the Robbins Schoolhouse. It was one of the first graded schools of Decatur County.

If I am rightfully informed, the first man that taught school in this building was a man by the name of Blake, a well known oddity of Decatur County. Mr. Blake failed in conducting the school and Mr. James Ewing, then a young lawyer of Greensburg, was called to finish the term of school.

They continued to use both school houses until the year 1866. The Relief Schoolhouse was destroyed by fire, so they decided to consolidate the schools and a second story was added to the new school building. Some of the teachers that taught here were Mr. Harvey, Jesse Harvey, Mrs. Carper, Mr. Will Pulse and Mr. Charles Powner. Among the families that went to school at this building were the families of John E. Robbins, Charles Ainsworth, Anderson Duncan, Elisha English, William Styers and Thomas Kitchen.

Among the many incidents that happened in our school days, we must not forget to mention the story of the old beech tree that stood near the wall of the schoolhouse. The teacher of the upper room had an occasion one day to punish some of the pupils. He left the room in search of a whip to inflict the punishment and when he returned, the last pupil was scrambling down the friendly old beech tree. He called the roll and each pupil returned to his seat and compromise was effected without any further trouble.

They continued to hold school in this building until the year 1887. It was then condemned on account of its weak construction. It was torn down and the material of the old building was used in the construction of the new. The building is still known as the Robbins School. Among the teachers that taught in this building were Edd Fisher, Miss Bertha Taylor, Miss Alva Grove, Miss Nellie Stout and Miss Bessie Donnell. Among the families that have gone to this building were the families of Frank Ainsworth, Edd Cooper, Monroe McNew, Brumfield Turner, Cliff English, J. B. Holmes, Eugene Ferris, Thomas Duncan, Sam Levell, Hugh Bills, Jeff Morris, Charles Moss, Edd Fiscus, Grover Redington, Edd Morgan, Frank Robbins and Earl Doggett. They continued to hold school here and the last four years have been successfully taught by our present teacher, Mr. Henry Showers.

And I will now say in behalf of my classmates of the 8th grade, that we kindly thank the teacher for the interest he has taken in our welfare and we will long cherish the fond memories of the happy days spent here and with love and well wishes to those who will come after us. And we will now say in conclusion to the dear old schoolhouse, a long farewell.

Velma M. Holmes (1915)



GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service

Washington 25, D.C.

August 7, 1956

Mr. Gerald T. Kelsch  
2110 West Heading Avenue  
Peoria, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kelsch:

Your letter of July 17, 1956, forwarded to the National Archives and Records Service, requested information about the post office at Millhousen, Indiana.

According to records of the Post Office Department now in our custody, a post office was established at Millhousen, Decatur County, on May 23, 1844. It was discontinued on September 27, 1862, and reestablished on December 1, 1862. Names of postmasters and dates of their appointment were:

Maxmilian Schneider	May 23, 1844
Bernard Hardebeck	October 30, 1850
George Happe	December 1, 1862
George Niemann	June 8, 1863
Joseph Herbert	September 16, 1863
George Rohrs	April 8, 1889
Joseph Herbert	April 14, 1893
George Rohrs	April 22, 1897
Henry Zapfe	May 29, 1901
John H. Herbert	April 1, 1903
Frances Spander	January 14, 1908
Jacob C. Glass	December 29, 1908
William F. Daily	December 20, 1918
Clem Herbert	March 11, 1936 *
(name corrected to John C. Herbert on May 22, 1936)	
Urban Fry	September 1, 1938 Acting (still serving) appointed Dec. 23, 1938

\*Information after 1930 furnished by the Post Office Department.

Very truly yours,

Victor Gondos, Jr.  
For the Chief Archivist  
Industrial Records Branch

(Jacob C. Glass - Dr. J. C. Glass - ed.)



RETROSPECT

by Gail Alley Bailey

I walked across a bridge today,  
That spans old Clifty Creek.  
My mind was many years away,  
Rich memories to seek.

I touched each rough hewn stone  
Grandfather Alley laid with care,  
And thought how he, and he alone  
With strength, had placed them there.

I gazed upon the stones he'd laid,  
Each one all straight and true.  
And in their strength, I saw his dreams  
And heard his voice come through.

"Build your life as I did this.  
Each stone a day for you.

Let nothing ever come amiss,  
No matter what you do.

Be true to God in every way.  
To every man be true.

Stand firm in every truth you say,  
And strength will come to you.

Strength to always do the right  
Through storm and sunshine too.

Be not afraid if you must fight  
For what you know is true.

Your promise as a bond must be,  
To everyone you give.

The world will know you for your truth,  
And you will truly live."

I bowed my head in reverence there,  
In thanks to God-- that he  
Whose toil worn hands had built  
A sermon there for me.

I thanked Him for the heritage  
He gave to those I love.  
And prayed that they'll be ever true  
To guidance from above.

I walked across a bridge today,  
And found rich memories there.  
My heart welled up with love to him  
Who placed each stone with care.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 33

Greensburg, Indiana

September 2, 1967

*Greetings - - -  
Class of 1917*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Miss Hazel Marlowe 569

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1967

President.....Grant Henderson

1st Vice-Pres.....Gene H. McCoy

2nd Vice-Pres.....Paul O. Jolliff

Corresponding Secy.....Mrs. Van  
Batterton, 525  
North Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind

Recording Secy.....Miss Helen K.  
Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Ind

Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery  
RFD 6, Greensburg, Ind

OCCASION: Fall tour of Franklin  
County

DATE: Sunday Afternoon  
September 17, 1967

PLACE: The tour starts at the  
Little Cedar Church,  
three miles south of  
Brookville, on U.S. 52  
at 2:00 P.M. Greensburg  
Time.

Members will provide their own  
transportation and will meet at  
the time and place stated above.  
Mr. Virgil Davis, Franklin County's  
eminent historian will be our  
guide. The great Whitewater Valley  
will be yours for the afternoon,  
with the traditional coffee and  
doughnuts to be served at Metamora.  
**DRIVE CAREFULLY!**

**BRING AS MANY GUESTS AS YOU LIKE!**  
**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!**

\* \* \* \* \*

For further information about the  
tour call Miss Marguerite Tillson,  
chairman at 663-4562.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING - As President Henderson stated, geology like geography  
has a bearing on our daily lives and for that reason there is a relation  
between our geology and our history. B. B. Harris riding through Decatur  
County in 1863 as one of John Hunt Morgan's raiders saw an outcrop of  
rock to which he came back later and established a rock quarry - the site  
of which became Harris City, now legendary but historic. Our speaker  
was a young man from Batesville, Mr. Roy Grossman. A dedicated "rock  
hound", personable and thoroughly familiar with his subject, Mr. Gross-  
man held his audience. He stated that many minerals useful to man, are  
to be found in Indiana but that some are more abundant elsewhere and  
consequently can be mined more cheaply. Further evidence of his prom-  
inence in the field, is that he has contributed to Smithsonian and New  
York museums. As an added bit Mr. Grossman very graciously introduced  
his fiancée, Miss Thelma Catherine Wolter of Decatur County. This was  
another pleasant evening for the members attending.



AFTER FIFTY YEARS

The 1917 Class of Greensburg High School will celebrate its 50th Anniversary Saturday, September 2nd. This was the largest class of its time and an unusual number of the graduates continue to live in Greensburg and Decatur County. Eleven of the fifty-eight are deceased. The class observed the 1916 State Centennial in its senior year and saw the beginning of World War I. It survived the depression of the Thirties. What became of them makes for an interesting commentary and this we have attempted to do. Asterisk indicates member of Decatur County Historical Society. The roster follows:

RAY ALLEN

1898-1961  
South Park

ROY BANTA

? -1966  
Bourbon, Indiana

FOREST BARCLAY

401 Barachel Lane  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Semi-retired from the grocery business.

HARRY K. BARNES

521 Narcissus Street  
Corona DelMar, California 92625

A Ford salesman for 40 years.

NELLE BAUMGARTNER STARKS

1898-1967  
South Park

RUTH BIDDINGER DOUGLAS

167 South Sheridan Avenue  
DeLand, Florida

Retired 10 years ago from Indiana Bell. Started her telephone career at 18.

LEONE BLACKMORE SJAASTAD

410 Lincoln Drive  
Minot, North Dakota

Commutes between N.D. and Fla.  
Following the sun!

MERVIN BLACKMORE

P.O. Box #23  
El Cayo, British Honduras  
Central America

Former prospector in Alaska, now has an 80 acre farm in British Honduras raising black Angus cattle, goats and Welsh ponies!

ELLA BROWN THOMPSON

R.R.#1 Box #1  
Greenwood, Indiana 46142

Works at Fort Benjamine Harrison Finance Center since death of husband in 1952.

LETTIE BROWN HOLTZCLAW

R.R.#5  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Eight children  
Twenty grandchildren.



\*HELEN BROWN MOZER (MRS. WM.)  
6026 Prestonshire Lane  
Dallas, Texas

From Home Ec. to a life of ease  
in Texas!

\*ETHEL BROWN PUERIFOY  
1104 Elm Avenue  
Sanford, Florida

A Hoosier who took out her  
citizen-ship papers in Florida  
many years ago. Retired from  
State Welfare work.

NELLE BRUNER HOLBROOK (MRS. ELBERT)  
Waldron, Indiana 46182

Nelle could be a subject for  
WHAT'S MY LINE! She makes  
molasses.

HELEN CLARK MILLER  
107 West Third Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Active in American Legion  
Auxillary affairs.

WAYNE CLARK  
1446 East Fifth Street  
Connersville, Indiana 47331

Like father, like son -  
a florist.

MABEL CLEMONS ROHLFING (MRS OLIVER)  
247 South Michigan Avenue  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Mabel taught in the Greensburg  
City Schools these many years.  
Retired now.

LORNA COLVIN MARTIN (MRS. EARL)  
Waldron, Indiana 46182

Homemaker. Has a daughter in  
Richmond, Indiana.

MILDRED CONQUEST TRANBURGER  
1222 Maryland Drive  
Anderson, Indiana 46014

Married a long time, beyond that  
the affiant sayeth naught-for he  
knoweth naught.

ELSIE COOPER McCLELLAND  
1631 Gregory Street  
San Diego, California 92102

Elsie, the next time that you  
write, let us know what you are  
doing or have done for your  
country.

\*MARY CRAIG  
221 North Jackson Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

In the loan business. See her if  
in need of funds!

ETHEL CRAWFORD  
210 Delaware Court  
138 West 10th Street  
Anderson, Indiana 46014

Didn't like retirement, so Ethel  
is back teaching.

ROBERT DOLES  
R.R.#7  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Robert farms his home place east  
of Greensburg.

BESSIE GREGORY GILBERT (MRS LLOYD)  
1118 Nevada Avenue  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 468\_\_

Retired. Always in hospital work.



GOLDIE HOWARD MARTIN  
Colonial Manor  
919 Sunset Avenue  
West Covina, California

\*PAUL HUBER  
323 North Broadway  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

DR. LAVERNE HURT  
MRS. NELLE VANKIRK HURT  
3102 Palm Drive  
Trade Winds Estates  
Delray Beach, Florida 33444

\*MRS. ALICE JENKINS REED  
603 North Broadway Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

MARJORIE JOHNSTON AICHELE  
Sapphire Hus Apt.  
1440 Lincoln Avenue  
San Diego, California

\*EDNA KETCHUM BERRYMAN  
6 East 21st Street  
Anderson, Indiana 46014

HELEN KAUTZ

ERNA LOYD WOLFE  
305 East 5th Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

\*MARGUERITE METZ  
New Point, Indiana 47263

ELSIE MOBLEY SHORTRIDGE  
33 North Tacoma Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46201

VERSIE MOBLEY STEELE  
P.C. Box #142  
Aurora, Indiana 47001

PAMELA MOSS  
R.R.#2  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Goldie is ill. We pray for her early recovery.

City Engineer of Greensburg.

Dr. Hurt practiced in Indianapolis until his retirement. Nelle is an R.N. Theirs was the one class romance.

Alice has her own beauty salon.

Dietician- "The food- one of the most important items- lies in the province of Mrs. Marjorie Aichelle, who can cram you with 600 calories for a full days diet and make you think you're having a feast."

Edna has a music studio.

But for helen Kautz (Kutz) we would have a perfect score. Who has a clue? Lets not loose her!

Taught school until three years ago.

Teaching in Dayton, Ohio. Her last year she swears????

For years with Wm. H. Block Co., Indianapolis.

Formerly a comptometer operator in Chicago and Cincinnati. Now a receptionist in her husband's beauty salon.

Pamela lives in the family home south of town. Long identified with MINEARS.



MYRA MURPHY DENNY (MRS JAMES)  
6633 Spring Brook, North Drive  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219

The wife of Dr. James Denny, who practices in Indianapolis.

JANE MCKAY FOSTER  
1897-1932  
Sandcreek Cemetery

HERSCHEL MCCOY  
R.R.#7 Edgewood Acres  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Huck advertises and sells BUICKS-OLDSMOBILES-PONTIACS - since 1930.

RAYMOND MCKIM  
1899-1948  
South Park

DARREL O. NEIDIGH, SR.  
Colonial Gardens, Apt. #5  
334 East Main Street  
Newark, Delaware 19711

Taught 43 years in Tippecanoe Co., 21 of them at Jeff High in Lafayette. Purdue graduate.

\*DONNA NEASE HATFIELD  
R.R.#7  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Donna works at selling dresses (when so inclined), this aside from time devoted to her two daughters.

ALMA PARRISH TAYLOR  
1899-1966  
South Park

MABEL PARKER GROFF (MRS. ANDREW)  
46 White Horse Avenue  
Trenton, New Jersey 08610

Mabel regrets that she cannot attend the 50th anniversary. Trenton, New Jersey is just too far away to check on her.

LILLIAN PORTER LINES  
1898-1961  
Star Church Cemetery

WILLIAM PORTER  
1898-1945  
South Park

THOMAS M. REYNOLDS  
2509 Mound View Drive  
Norwood, Ohio 45212

A banker in Norwood since his college days.

\*MILDRED ROBISON HOGUE  
1217 Pleasant Street  
Utica, New York

Her itinerary has her in Scotland on Sept. 2nd. She will move from Utica, N. Y. to Florida after her return from abroad.

\*RAYMOND ROLFES  
610 North Broadway Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

The Judge is the senior member of ROLFES, GARVEY & WALKER, ATTYS.



\*MAGGIE RYSE BEAGLE  
128 West Central Avenue  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Her interests are her grandchildren, the Heart Fund, anything humanitarian.

MARY HELEN STOUT JOHNSON  
1309 North Pennsylvania Street  
Apt 23  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

"A housewife for many many years."

OPAL SWANGO TERRELL  
R.R.#2 Box #67  
Fremont, Indiana

Opal spends her summers in Indiana, and winters in Florida!

\*ALPHA E. THACKERY  
R.R.#6  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

In insurance until her retirement to the family home south of New Point.

FRANK TOWNSEND  
322 East Main Street  
Greensburg, Indiana 47240

Sells fence, carloads of it!

MARIE TRANSOU  
1899-1920  
South Park

GRANT TURNER  
? -1949  
Piqua, Ohio

BERTHA VANDERBUR BADGLEY  
1024 North Shore Drive  
Saint Petersburg, Florida

A resident of Anderson for many years. Now lives in Florida. Her hobby is art.

FOREST TURNER  
1898(?) - 1951(?)  
Died at Key West, Florida

\* \* \* \* \*

IF YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN! Instructors at G.H.S. for the school year 1916-1917 were as follows:

Elmer C. Jerman - Superintendent  
Guilford M. Wiley - Prin. & Math  
Stella Kennedy - History  
Clara Brown - English  
R. McAllister - English & Latin  
Frieda Rosenmund - German  
Forest Kyle - Latin  
A. W. McCracken - Science

Alva McGraw - Manual Training  
Marie Braden - Domestic Science  
J. W. Ray - Agriculture  
Carrie Stewart - Home-making  
Louise Ehlers - Music  
Lutie V. Gordon - Penmanship & Drawing  
Florine Siling - Physical Culture



August 24, 1967

Dear Editor,

Oscar Ross Ewing, formerly of Greensburg, now of Chapel Hill, N.C., will speak at a dedication of a monument which is being erected at the grave of Abel Morgan in the Mowery Cemetery, five miles west of Greensburg.

Abel Morgan was the father of Lydia Morgan Ewing, wife of Patrick Ewing. They lived on the land that he had taken in about 1825. Here were born their fifteen children who grew to manhood and womanhood and have taken active parts in the affairs of the county.

Abel Morgan was the son of Ralph Morgan of Kentucky, whose sister Sarah married Squire Boone and they were parents of Daniel Boone, "The Father of Kentucky."

Two daughters of Abel Morgan, Sarah and Priscilla, married John and William McCullough and many of their descendants reside in and around Westport.

Abel Morgan's half brother, David Douglas, came to Decatur County in 1825. He was a minister of the gospel of the "Newlight" faith. Our county records reveal too that he performed many marriage ceremonies at that early date. He owned the land later owned by Nelson Mowery who had the cement wall built around the cemetery in 1920.

David and his wife, Catherine, are buried about eight feet south of the grave of Abel Morgan.

Abel Morgan's history is one of hardship and bravery - he was a pioneer of the new land - the dark and bloody land of Kentucky, an Indian fighter, he was one of those men who opened the way for future generations.

The date of the dedication will probably be in October and will be announced later.

Respectfully,

(s) Mrs. Edward A. Porter

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERSHIP - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends December 31st. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.



ROAD NAMES - The kin and business heirs of Henry Ford have not accepted his facetious dictum that "history is the bunk." Witness the enormous museums and historical collections at Fort Dearborn and other places that have arisen from his fortune....This entire country has, within the last decade, evinced a growing interest in its past as a background for its future, a national revival of the insular pride that characterizes our English ancestry. Indiana is among its leaders in the states, and Decatur County among the most prominent in seeking to preserve local facts and traditions.

It was recently called to my attention, however, that "road names," once so well established, have been allowed to vanish since the innovation of "road numbers."

This is not to say that the numerical designation of the county and township roads is without merit. Quite the contrary, this system is an important improvement in directing fire fighters or police or strangers to an isolated spot on the map.

Old familiar names, however, should not be forgotten. Such, for example, as the "Vandalia Road," which branches off the "Old Michigan Road" a mile northwest of Greensburg and reaches the Shelby County line 10 miles west. (In Shelby the name is designated by historical markers.)

The Michigan Road southeast was known to former generations as "The Napoleon Road." When it became a state highway it was numbered "Ind. 29." Later, becoming a national highway, it was labeled "U.S. 421" - and the pioneer name practically forgotten. At Greensburg's corporation line it forks to the right and opens "The Milhousen Road."

Decatur County's first experiment with blacktop gave us "The Tarvia Road," a designation that clings popularly to the county highway taking off east from Ind. 3 about three miles north of Greensburg.

"The Scenic Route" is the old trail from Greensburg to Westport via Turner's Quarry, veering briefly to the left at the T, where the right turn leads to Harris City.

The "Painter Crick Road" (sometimes corrupted to "Fenther Creek") is southeast of Westport. Other half-forgotten road names include "Downeyville," "Moscow," "Dark Corner," (northwest of Alert), "Brookville", and "Possum Glory," (southwest of Burney).

Unfortunately, many of our busy, taxharassed generation agree with Henry - many believe that the documents most contributing to the U. S. government are Forms 1040 and 1040-A.



Published by

## INDIANA HISTORICAL BUREAU

## FAMILY HISTORY

The letter below was recently received by Miss Caroline Dunn, the Librarian of the William Henry Smith Memorial Library. We felt that it stated several aspects of the case for family history so well that we rushed off a request for permission to reprint it. So here it is with a few deletions:

Dear Caroline:

Now it's my turn to ask you a favor! Somehow along the line, probably because I was the only member of the family to express any interest in my forbears, I became the recipient of all sorts of bits and pieces of information about ancestry, both from -----'s and my family. . . . Aside from putting them all in one cupboard, I never did much of anything with them, after I had once read, or glanced over their contents.

However, the other day I was busy writing up the pedigrees of my latest litter of English Springer Spaniels. This brood was the result of considerable planning and study of antecedents, and while the actual typing of sixty-two names was a bore, I looked upon the thirty names of Champions in their six-generation genealogy with some pride. All of a sudden I thought-- this pedigree blank is a useful piece of paper-- supposing I substituted the name of one of my children for the name of one of my dogs? Could I possibly trace our ancestry for six generations? And it seemed suddenly rather dreadful, that I could turn out animals who's background was carefully documented, and yet not provide the same record for my own children.

I was not interested in proving some remote member of the family had come over steerage on the Mayflower, nor yet that we were the sons and daughters of a thousand earls! I was merely intrigued by the fact that I doubted I could name off our forbears. And what a pity! When I thought of all the sixty-two people who comprised a six-generation background, how they had fallen in love, married, had had children, struggled to bring them up to the best of their ability, from pre-revolutionary times--only to be so completely forgotten that even their descendants didn't recognize their names!! It was heartbreaking. Result: I went to the cupboard containing all the material donated by relatives; I fished out an official Spratt's pedigree blank, and went to work! I am enclosing the result.

Frankly, I did rather better than I thought I could. I only managed a run-down on fifty-two ancestors, but I didn't dream I could do that much....

I am interested to find that of all the listed relatives, only one emigrated comparatively recently from England, and one . . . is said to have come from Scotland. Otherwise, I guess my children are as purely "American" as one can make 'em! And typical, in the sense that they come from the solid, respectable, middle class that always manages to survive. Though we rate a few judges, lawyers, and ministers, most of the stock consists of merchants (small time), dirt farmers, Indian fighters, wheat stackers and the like. It gives me a good solid feeling that my tribe is of the earth,



earthy, and not about to evaporate in a cloud of pale blue blood, nor, having stemmed from dashing prominent forbears, dwindle away in frustration at not being able to live up to an illustrious past!

This has been a lot of fun-- and once complete, I am going to present each one of my quartet with a copy of the "evidence", begging them to take it from there, and, if possible, extract a similar run-down from their brides, and/or grooms, when they marry.

I hope this doesn't sound too much like Chinese ancestor worship. I don't mean it that way at all. It's just nice to know, as you put one foot in front of another, that there were those before you who did the same thing, and that those who come after you will keep on trying. . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* WITH ALL BEST WISHES \*

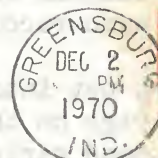
\* FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND \*

\* THE NEW YEAR 1971 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA

UNITED STATES POSTAGE 6 CENTS



629-630

Mr. and Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
220 East Walnut St.  
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

OPEN CAREFULLY



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 34

Greensburg, Indiana

December 1, 1967

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Elsie Shortridge - Indpls.  
Mrs. Versie Steele - Aurora  
Mrs. Olive Tumilty 572

THE DISPLAY

The display, always a feature of the dinner meeting, will be one of old books. Members will be asked to contribute books which they neither read nor care for.. Here is an opportunity to reduce your shelves! And who knows- the book you discard may be another's find...All books will be priced for sale, the proceeds to go to the Society...And for the purpose, anything in print and bound, will be considered a book- paperbacks, pamphlets of interest, fiction, science, travel, history, catalogs as a 1903 Sears, almanacs, annuals, text books (including McGuffeys), year books, etc.

The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull and dry;  
The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy;  
The books that people talk about, we never can recall;  
And the books that people give us, Oh, they're the worst of all!  
-Carolyn Wells

IMPORTANT-CALL PAUL H. HUBER AT 663-6866 BEFORE FRIDAY MORNING DECEMBER 15th IF YOU HAVE BOOKS TO CONTRIBUTE. THESE WILL BE COLLECTED FRIDAY MORNING.

\* \* \* \* \*

BE AN EARLY BIRD! Save postage by paying your 1968 membership fee at the dinner. Annual dues are still one dollar!

OCCASION: Ninth Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers.

DATE: Friday night, December 15, 1967 at 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: Keillor's Restaurant  
State Road 3 North  
Greensburg, Indiana

PROGRAM: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beesley are naturalists and photographers from Cedar Grove, Indiana, their specialty being the wild-flowers of Franklin County and surrounding areas. They have photographed thousands of plants and have some five hundred slides of different species. Their material has been widely used in illustrating book jackets and articles of botanical nature in various Indiana magazines and publications. Mr. & Mrs. Beesley have lectured before high school groups, clubs and other student bodies. She will narrate the slides shown by Mr. Beesley.

RESERVATIONS

If you have not been contacted, please call Mr. Gene H. McCoy at 663-6561 not later than Wednesday, December 13th if you plan to attend the dinner. Tickets are \$2.50 each. Members will be expected to honor their reservations.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! IF YOU CANT ATTEND THE DINNER, COME LATER FOR THE PROGRAM.



CLIFTY  
(Milford Village)

A post village of Decatur County, in Clay Township, situated on a creek of the same name, 7 miles west from Greensburg, the capitol of the county, and 45 miles southeast from Indianapolis.

It contains two Protestant churches, one Masonic lodge, one lodge I.O.O.F., three general stores, two groceries, one hotel, one woolen factory, several flouring and saw mills in the vicinity, and varied mechanical branches and professions. Population 500. Township 2,000. Post office established in 1830.

ISAAC W. FUGET, Postmaster.

---

Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Armstrong T., saddle and harness maker.  
Braden R., resident farmer.  
Burney Milton, resident farmer.  
Byrne H. O., resident farmer.  
Clark John, barber and broom manufacturer.  
Colee Hannah, baker and grocer.  
Cook H., cabinet maker.  
Critser H.R., prop'r water grist mill.  
Critser Henry, prop'r water saw mill.  
Fugot H.F., attorney at law.  
Fugot I.W., attorney at law, notary public, insurance agent, justice of peace and surveyor.  
Fugot Mrs. Mary A., milliner and dress maker.  
Furney Samuel, daguerrean artist.  
Guest James, boot and shoe maker.  
Heaton R. & Co., prop'rs water flouring and grist mills.  
Howell W., justice of peace.  
Hunter M.C., carriage and wagon maker.  
Jayer D.A., blacksmith.  
Jones Daniel, chair manufacturer.  
Jones Henry, cabinet maker.  
King J.G., resident farmer.  
Knight Henry, carpenter and township trustee.  
Krugdon S., sash, blind and door maker.  
Krught H., village trustee.  
Leach E.W., physician and village trustee.  
Legget James, painter.  
McAllister Lewis, physician, and dealer in wines and liquors.  
McAllister Mrs. Rachel, dress maker.  
Mandlove J., village trustee.  
Mandlove James, general merchant and attorney at law.  
Mandlove & Griffey, dealers in stoves, tin, and sheet iron ware.  
Marsh Mrs. Z., school teacher.  
Marsh Wm. T., carpenter.  
Marshall H.A., saddle and harness maker.  
Messenheimer C., carpenter.  
Pavy W., tailor  
Phillips Wm., carriage, wagon and plow maker.  
Ponner Wm. H., school teacher.



Read E.B., physician.  
Rose U., resident farmer.  
Russell Robert C., general merchant.  
Self K., justice of peace.  
Smith A.J., blacksmith.  
Smith James, blacksmith.  
Solomon H., woolen manufacturer, dyer and scourer.  
Solomon Hiram, carding machine.  
Tillson W.S., general merchant and druggist.  
Tillson W.S., village trustee and dealer in jewelry, watches, clocks,  
etc.  
Ward D., blacksmith and plow maker.  
Ward D., edge tool manufacturer and gunsmith.  
Welsh M.C., hide and leather dealer, auctioneer and butcher.  
Welsh M.C., constable, village treasurer and collector.  
West G.W., shingle maker.  
Wiley James M., saloon keeper and grocer.  
Wolverton William, boot and shoe maker.  
Wooden John L., physician.

(This was Milford in 1860-ed)

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE INFORMATION PLEASE!

Miss Aletheia Pattison, 5 Dexter Place, E.W.H., Cincinnati, Ohio would appreciate information about Mrs. George Lewis Gatch, who at one time lived in Greensburg, or of a Mr. Wm. Armington Abbott.

Dorothy N. Lloyd, P.O.Box 1336, Hollywood, Florida, 33022, would appreciate information on the Paul family. She is particularly interested in Jonathan Paul, who was on the 1830 census, age 6-69, especially his date of death. His daughter Mary C. Paul was born Xenia, Ohio 1812; his wife is believed to be Mary (Griffin) Paul and to have died between 1820-1830. She further believes Jonathon Paul was the brother of the John Paul who founded Xenia, Ohio and Madison, Indiana.

Charles M. Hiner, P.O.Box 145, East Berlin, Pa., 17316 seeks the names of Samuel Hiner's father and mother. Samuel Hiner is buried in the Milford Cemetery, born Dec. 8, 1807 and died June 26, 1890.

Jennie Huntzinger, RFD 1, Box 57, Pendleton, Indiana, 46064 would appreciate information on "Crumm - Crumme - Crumbore ?? family - 17 children from your county."

\* \* \* \* \*

From records in the Office of the Clerk of the Decatur Circuit Court:

Civil Order Book No. A. Page 6. Dated October, 1822  
"Ordered by the court that the following shall be the description and devices of the County seal for Decatur County (Towit) "Seal of the Decatur Circuit Court" And a nightingale to be engraved with a bough in its mouth."

-By Mrs. Chas. Loucks



## EARLY NEWSPAPERS

H. G. Stuhrenberg

(Presented before the Society in 1965, we consider Mr. Stuhrenberg's paper so well done, that we again offer it here, particularly for the out of town members. Well researched and aside from being an excellent resume of the history of the local "fourth estate", it glows with a lot of other interesting bits of memorabilia. Mr. Stuhrenberg is the city editor of the GREENSBURG DAILY NEWS-ed.)

We Americans have never been without newspapers although in the early days in the new world they did not bear the "made in America" label or bear much resemblance to the paper we know today.

To satisfy the hunger for news of the early colonists there were letters from England. Packets of newspapers were sent to some by their correspondents abroad and delivered by captains of sailing ships.

Their ties were to Europe and they longed for news of the land from where they had sailed. In their new home, communities were small and there was little need for a newspaper.

Later, news letters were issued from Boston, Philadelphia and London with capsule sketches of events.

Royal governors of the early colonies were opposed to printing and it was a half a century after the first press was set up at the then two-year-old Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., in 1638 before the appearance of the first American newspaper.

Benjamin Harris published the first newspaper on Sept. 25, 1690 under the title "Public Occurrences, both Foreign and Domestic." Issued from the London Coffee House, Boston, it was intended to be "furnished once a month or if any glut of occurrences happens, oftener.

It was promptly suppressed because certain reflections were distasteful to Gov. Simon Bradstreet of Massachusetts. Harris was a London bookseller and publisher who had come to Boston four years before after fleeing England because he had been sentenced to pillory and prison for exposing a plot. Harris, although not given the shroud of a hero in newspaper history, did earn his niche as father of American newspapers with his admirable, if brief, excursion into journalism.

It was 14 years before the first successful newspaper was started in America. Harris' experience may have discouraged others. John Campbell, a New England postmaster, issued The Boston News Letter, the first issue of which bore the date April 17-24, 1704. In 15 years it reached a circulation of 300.

A century later when Indian treaties had cleared the country east of the Mississippi for settlement, Elihu Stout, one of many printers trained in the office of the Kentucky Gazette at Lexington, established the first paper in Indiana at Vincennes in 1804. It was called the Indiana Gazette, later the Western Sun and is still published as the



Vincennes Sun Commercial. In that newspaper office today is a picture of Stout and a staff willing to inform one and all of their heritage. Interestingly enough, there are several copies of the second issue of Stout's paper but all efforts have failed to locate a single copy of the first issue.

As students of history, you have recognized that our chronology is now approaching the days when Decatur County and Greensburg came into being. Settlers were coming into this section of Indiana following a trail set by the swinging axe of the Pennsylvania surveyor, Colonel Thomas Hendricks, who started Greensburg in 1820. Two years later, June 14, 1822, the settlement of perhaps 100, was selected as the county seat.

Perhaps the growth of newspapers at this time was due partly to the decrease of illiteracy. Circulation of American newspapers remained small but they grew in numbers. In 1833 the New York Courier and Enquirer, claiming a circulation of 4,500, was undoubtedly the largest paper in the country. By this time Cincinnati was a great western distribution center for printer's supplies. Decatur pioneers, like those in other areas of Indiana, made the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, a widely read newspaper. The papers were transported by stage and horseback to Brockville where the Indiana land office was located. Decatur County residents often did not receive papers for weeks or months. And when they arrived they contained news of Washington and countries in Europe. We must remember that these were the days it required 18 to 20 days to haul merchandise by ox carts over mud trails from Cincinnati to Indianapolis.

Greensburg in 1830-32 was a village of 400 or 500 persons in home mostly around the square. About one-fourth of the lots on the square were vacant and others occupied by brick, frame and log buildings. Not too many years later three stage coach lines served Greensburg and the delivery of papers from larger cities was improved.

The first newspaper in Greensburg came in the spring of 1830 when Elijah Mitchell, one of the pioneers of 1823, began "The Greensburg Chronicle," and after about a year sold the outfit to Thomas Dowling who changed the name to "The Political Clarion." He continued the paper until the close of the Clay-Jackson campaign of 1832 when he sold out to James Harvey Brown, whose editorial career was a brief one - the paper dying a few month later.

For three years following the death of "The Clarion", the county was without a paper.

But such a vacuum could not long endure. Men and women carving new homes in the wilderness wanted newspapers in order to promote the spread of their favorite partisan political doctrine and as a printed booster sheet--a sort of pioneer Chamber of Commerce brochure--they could send back East filled with propaganda for the new country. And historians credit the sheets with being effective in keeping up the flow of emigration.

It is often said that papers of that day - mostly weeklies with a circulation of a few hundred where the editor was often his own re-



porter, typesetter, pressman and circulation and advertising manager, were "editorially verbose, typographically ugly, intensely personal and violently partisan."

As we come to the next chapter in the story of Greensburg newspapers it might be wise to review the political situation of that era. The Democratic party was until 1854 the party of Andrew Jackson. The Whig party was formed in the 1830s by a union of several anti-Jackson groups, chiefly the National Republicans, the Anti-Masons and Southern Anti-Jackson Democrats. Its great leaders were Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. But in 1854 the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act caused a realignment of parties on the slavery issue: The Democrats emerged as the pro-slavery party; the Republican Party was established on the basis of opposition to slavery and the Whig organization dissolved. The period of 1833-1860 was in the main a Democratic era. Except for the four years of the Taylor-Fillmore administration, Democratic ideas prevailed and that party won five of the seven national elections. Now it would be wrong to think of the Whig papers of that era as a "kept" press but they did have certain financial advantages in some areas.

In the fall of 1835 in Greensburg, John Thomson, a brother-in-law of Elijah Mitchell, founder of first paper and a great-grandfather of Mrs. Marie Borchers, issued a prospectus for a paper to be called The Greensburg Repository. Despite his ardent Whig sentiments he entertained some doubts whether a partisan paper could be maintained here and proposed that it be a "family newspaper, independent, but not neutral."

At about the same time a William Vallette Coleman came from Brookville with a crude press and a shirt-tail full of type from a defunct Democratic newspaper and proposed a partnership in the new enterprise with Thomson. When Thomson showed little enthusiasm for such a shotgun political marriage, Coleman immediately began the publication of a Democratic paper called "The Greensburg Courier." This gave Thomson the opportunity to abandon his proposed neutrality - a change his son later said was not an altogether unpleasant decision - and when he first issued "The Repository" in December, 1835, it bore at its head the motto "The Union, The Constitution and Enforcement of Laws" and underneath in bold face type there read - For President, General William Henry Harrison, of Ohio, subject to the decision of the Whig National Convention. Thomson's man didn't make it in 1836 but he did justify the editor's faith by turning the tables on VanBuren in 1840.

Coleman's Democratic paper survived the winter of 1835 and 1836 but when the roads settled in the Spring, its proprietor loaded it on a wagon and headed for Shelbyville.

The following year, 1837, when Greensburg, then a community of perhaps 800, was incorporated as a town, "The Repository" was the only paper to record that news and Thomson continued his monopoly until the early part of 1841.

It is well to bear in mind as we weave the threads of this newspaper tapestry that "The Repository" had established deep roots in this



community and would survive until 1928, although its name was changed and it had many owners.

In 1841, Peter J. Bartholomew began the publication of a paper with the somewhat lengthy title "The Chronicle of the Times." He died a few months later and Philander Hamilton and James Monroe Talbot purchased it and changed the name to "The Decatur Sentinel." A year later the same paper appeared as "The Decatur Phoenix" under the proprietorship of Israel T. Gibson. Both "The Repository" and "The Phoenix" had limited patronage, however, and in November, 1843, the two were consolidated under the name of "The Repository" which is probably a good clue in identifying the one with "the urge to merge." And if one needs additional evidence, it can be found in the statement of policy in the first edition after the merger. Addressed to "kind patrons" it announced it was "Whig to the core" and as such would advocate - in a mild but uncompromising spirit - the measures and principles of The Great Whig party to wit: A sound national bank; a protective tariff; the land distribution; restriction of the veto; one presidential term and would support the nomination of the Great Whig Leader, the orator and statesman, Henry Clay, of Kentucky, as the Whig candidate for the presidency in 1844. With this out of his system, the editor got into the commercial - "This number of the Repository will be sent to all those who were subscribers to the Phoenix. If, after reading it, they do not wish to become subscribers they will please send it back. We hope, however, that none of them stop; every man should have a paper, and more especially for the coming year. Our State Legislature and Congress both convene on Monday next and by the time they adjourn the Presidential canvass will be fairly under way, and, this being the case, we cannot see, for the life of us, how any man can get along without a newspaper. Under those considerations, we hope that our friends not only stick to us, but use some exertion to get their neighbors to take The Repository."

Files of the papers of that day show that printers were forced to set their papers in two or three sizes of type, not in order to display one article more than another, but because they had too small a supply of any one size. Headings were usually little more than date lines and anything approaching the headlines of later journalism were rare. The majority of papers made very modest incomes on small investments.

There was no standard makeup. Three-quarters of the front page might be filled with advertising and the remainder devoted to literary miscellany or a political essay. Essays of the lighter variety, anecdotes and poetry were common fare.

It might be interesting to take a look at first issue of the merged Repository and Phoenix - Dec. 1, 1843.

It reported that the Caledonia arrived in Boston on Monday evening last. The news brought by her is not of great importance. Interpretation - we have received our papers from Europe but don't have the space to print much of what was in them.



A historical note - The Cincinnati and White Water Canal was opened for boats on Wednesday last. They had a great time at Cincinnati on the occasion. And reprinted from the Brookville American was this item: There has been a break in the canal about five miles above this place, which will probably occupy some eight or 10 days in repairing.

The issue devoted two columns to a story from the Farmers' Magazine on how to propose. It started off by saying girls are queer little animals and then it interpreted the yes or no by the sound of the utterance and suggested that if the lady says No when her actions say Yes, do not, we beseech you, tear your hair out and fly off in a tangent. The hook caught and by giving her plenty of line, playing with her delicately and scientifically, you can, in time, draw her to your arms as she blushing confesses the power and potency of your charms.

Now I ask you did Dorothy Dix or Ann Landers ever give advice more to the point?

Three columns on the front page were devoted to a speech by the Honorable Daniel Webster at Baltimore.

It was filled with tidbits of prose such as "May we kiss the girl, we please and please the girls we kiss."

In a political vein - after the Whigs had been defeated in bid for state offices - "We venture the assertion that not since that memorable day on which the wily serpent beguiled the parents of our race has there been another such scramble after spoils as there now is among the Democrats of the state - all prominent men of the party are standing like a hungry cub, with jaws distended, ready to pounce on jobs."

Gabriel Woodfill ran a card announcing he wanted immediately a quantity of wheat, feathers, flaxseed and country orders for which he promised to give the highest price on delivery, at his store, in store goods.

J. and F. R. Blair announced the fresh arrival of a fine assortment of reasonable goods and were wanting 1,000 bushels of dried peaches, 9,000 bushels of flaxseed and 2,000 pounds of feathers. And despite a special effort I couldn't find how they stored 2,000 pounds of feathers.

Robinson and Heuser advertised as carriage, wagon and plow makers

Samuel Austin informed the readers he had opened a silversmithing shop on the corner immediately south of Potter's tavern.

S. Bryan and Hueston offered to accept feathers, beeswax, peaches, rags, flax and linen in exchange for dry goods, hardware, queensware, groceries, dye-stuffs, bonnets, hats, boots and shoes.

This, of course, was the day of Godey's Lady's Book, the best magazine of the season. It wasn't cheap. Two copies for \$5. But it con-



tained colored fashion plates and if my history is correct the women made dresses from these pictures because there were no patterns available.

The Repository offered to take the following articles of the "better currency" in payment of subscriptions - peaches, apples, beans, wood, bacon, sugar, chickens, wheat, meal, linen and flour.

Those early editors had their problems. Roads were bad, collections worse and paper could be procured only for cash. It wasn't long after this that one editor announced in his paper: "There will be no paper next week; we are out of money, out of paper and we can't and won't buy on credit." The paper did not appear for two weeks.

Or another SOS. "Very late and important--we are just out of wood and would be very much pleased to receive a few loads immediately. Wood that is dry and would burn well in a stove would suit us best."

The Repository market report listed beef cattle at \$3 per hundred-weight; feathers, 21 cents pound; dried fruit - peaches \$1 bushel, apples 50 cents; flour \$3.60 barrel and hogs \$2.50 a hundred.

But they had classified ads - Found on the streets of Greensburg, a live full grown, sawdust, broom and rag bustle; Owner can obtain same by applying at this office.

And the advertisers often created amazing effects when they "let themselves go". Witness the following poetical effusions, quoted only in part:

Thus Alexander knelt at beauty's shrine  
And Anthony thought Cleopatra's charms divine;  
Celestial beauty--daughter of the skies--  
Fair-skinned, rose-cheeked and lily-necked arise!  
Try Radway's Chinese Medicated Soap!  
This and This alone each form will purify  
And make the ugliest handsome to the eye;  
This for pimples, blotches, tetters, rheum  
Will banish all before its rich perfume.....

And they wonder who the ancestors of the TV commercial writers were!

When The Repository and The Phoenix merged, the Thomson paper was operated by Orville Thomson, son of the founder, and the Phoenix by Jacob W. Mills. They continued the management of the paper, either together or individually, until 1851. It then went into the hands of Davies Batterton and William H. Hazelrigg, William H. Rhiver being taker into the firm later. In July, 1853, it was again purchased by Orville Thomson and continued by him until the later part of 1856 when it went into the hands of the former firm again. With the issue of Dec. 26, 1856, the paper appeared as The Decatur Republican. In 1858 the paper was acquired by J. J. Hazelrigg and George R. Rhiver. Rhiver died in 1862 and Hazelrigg continued the paper until 1863 and then sold it to Dr. S. H. Riley, J. B. Mallett and Redin E. Conover. In 1865 they sold



it to Will Pound. In 1868 Pound sold to J. J. Hazelrigg; in 1872 Hazelrigg to Joseph A. McKee; in 1873, McKee to George H. McKee; 1878, George H. McKee to J. J. Hazelrigg who with his sons operated it until 1894 when the late Luther D. Braden became the owner and editor. Since 1848, under the several managements, it bore several different names - Decatur Clarion, Decatur Press, Decatur Republican, Greensburg Chronicle and finally in 1868, The Greensburg Standard, the name it carried until its demise.

As the Decatur Republican in 1858 it was the first among Indiana newspapers to pronounce "For president in 1860, Abraham Lincoln."

By the close of the Fremont campaign in 1856, the subscription list had grown to a little over 600, a number that, run off on the old hand press, was about the peak of the country editor's ambition - and certainly his mechanical capacity. It was a four-page paper with hand-set type and sold for \$2, \$2.50 or \$3.00 a year, depending on how the subscriber settled with the publisher.

From 1836 to 1841 and again from 1843 to 1850, The Repository, its predecessors and its successors, had no competition.

But in 1850 Oscar B. Hord and Charles R. Hobbs established a Democratic paper by the name of The Greensburg Gazette. In 1852 it gave way to the Democratic Rifle with Bernard Mullen as editor but in the words of one historian - obviously a Whig - it succumbed under the withering frosts of the ensuing November. John B. Covington started another Democratic paper in 1856 and maintained the struggle for three years until sometime in 1859 in which year the following notice appeared in The Decatur Republican - "The Democrat office of this place was sold last week at sheriff's sale for \$25.25--rather a small price for a printing office."

Any attempt to recite a history of newspapers in Greensburg must of necessity make use of a history compiled in 1895 by Orville Thomson the editor of some of those early papers and son of the founder of The Repository. But there are two significant blanks in his history. Thomson's account points out that the name of Covington's Democratic paper could not be learned. Here permit me to give you another example of the value of old papers and documents preserved by your organization and its members. When an earlier historical society was disbanded a few years ago, provision was made to store in a locked chest in the Greensburg library certain records and documents. In going through these some days ago, I found a copy of The Greensburg Guard published by John B. Covington - here was the missing link in this history. It closed a gap that had been open for more than 70 years. And undoubtedly it is the only copy of The Greensburg Guard in existence - preserved because of the historical society's thoughtfulness. Thomson records that another Democratic paper was established shortly after this but was absorbed in 1863 by The Decatur Republican. I might tell you that in the files of the historical society at the library is a copy of this paper - The Decatur Democrat, published by William H. Vanhorn & Company - another missing link.



For the next six years - during the period of the Civil War - there was only one paper in Greensburg.

There was a tremendous increase in newspaper readership in the middle of the century. Favorable mail rates - free for several years - a population explosion, free public education, change from candles to oil lamps and gas lights in cities and increased interest in public affairs were factors.

One of the striking features of newspapers of that day was the reckless use of adjectives. In 1858 the Decatur Democrat and the Rushville Jacksonian were "on the outs" on the slavery question. The former was opposed to slavery and branded the Buchanan administration as a "humbug and a swindle." The Jacksonian stood for the simon-pure democracy of the day. The Decatur Republican, referring to the bitter words that had been tossed back and forth, said: "They respectively make each other out as extreme great liars and very dirty dogs, and it gives us much pleasure in uttering the conviction that they both tell the truth."

During the Civil War, the editor of The Decatur Republican sometimes waxed hot in criticizing those who were lukewarm for the Union and once in a while laid down the law. In 1863, when the Knights of the Golden Circle were getting very bold in the southern part of the county and were considering taking arms to resist the draft, he gave them the following gentle hint: "The draft will be enforced in this county though the streets run red with human gore and torch destroy every town and village in the county. This is fully decided and can be relied upon."

The Republican editor turned his torrid pen a few years earlier on a Democratic paper that had a brief earthly career. On March 25, 1863, Burnham and Howell put out the first issue of The Greensburg Fact. In November of the same year this tribute was paid in The Republican: "Died--In this city last week, of starvation, The Greensburg Fact. Mourners scarce."

But in 1869 Martin Zorger and Martin Blair established another Democratic paper that was to continue for many years. The Democratic New Era finally tossed in the sponge about the time of World War I. Owners in success were Zorger, Ed D. Donnell and James Hart, W. A. Donnell and Sons, J. E. Mendenhall, Allen W. Clark, W. H. Glidewell and Dr. J. W. Rucker who came to Greensburg from Shelbyville in 1902 and became the editor of The Daily Graphic which was issued from the New Era office until it died in January, 1915. During the summer of 1878, O. P. McLane, a young teacher of Jackson Township started another Democratic paper under the name of The Decatur Democrat, which was absorbed by the other paper of that political faith after a brief career.

But let us pause in this chronology at the 1870 milestone. Greensburg has two weekly papers - The Greensburg Standard and The Democratic New Era. The advent of railroads and telegraph had affected newspaper publication tremendously and the introduction of the power press revolutionized the mechanical side of the industry. But more was to come.



Mergenthaler was to introduce the first linotype machine in the late 1880s. The typewriter clumsy though it was, meant more speed. And then Bell came with the telephone. It was also in these years that rag pulp paper gave way to chemical wood pulp.

But 1870 seems to be a good time to take another look at our files.

One issue of The Standard devoted a whole column to criticizing women's dress.

"Young girls and ripe matrons need not go about robed like religious fanatics but let those to whom a high-necked and long-sleeved party dress could be a grievous affliction content themselves with showing a modest rim of shoulder above their bodices. And let them not forget that well turned white arms can be seen and appreciated without necessity of being exposed clear up to the armpits. No fair young girl ever lost anything in the estimation of men, whose opinion is worth having, by appearing with neck, shoulders and arms chastely veiled in delicate lace or muslin, instead of exposing them to the promiscuous gaze of a public assembly."

Greensburg then had a population of about 2,600. It was a city of unpaved streets, slab sidewalks, gas streetlights. And it was about this time that the first tree was observed on the 10-year-old courthouse tower.

President Grant had the passageway in the White House converted into a billiard room; Mormon women in Salt Lake City were protesting against passage of an anti-polygmy bill in the U.S. house of representatives; sewing machines were advertised; And in Greensburg Reiter's advertised fur muffs and men's beaver collars and gloves.

The city had a curfew between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. on youngsters under 15 with the courthouse bell serving as the signal. And it was time to pass the famed goose ordinance which banned hogs, goats, geese, ganders, cows, heifers, steers and bulls from running at large.

The 15th amendment to the Constitution was one of the issues of the day. This amendment said that the right of the citizens of the U.S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The editor of The Standard proved his ability as a prophet in predicting its ratification in a short time but would be flabbergasted were he alive today to witness the demonstrations for it to become effective in some sections of the nation.

And then there was another burning issue that occupied the attention of the editor.

"What eye can follow the course of a couple of modern whirligigs as they describe their wondrous circles on the ballroom floor? Like seaworthy crafts they alternately dip and pitch and skim--now appearing full sail before what would seem a steady breeze; then obeying the sudden rising of the instrumental gale, they swing to the leeward,



roll to the windward, and after a brief struggle are submerged altogether and found at last in some out of the way corner--panting, gasping and perspiring but supremely happy and ready for another cruise." I read on to find he was referring to the round dances - the waltzes, polkas and gallops.

The railroad had placed its ribbons of steel across the fields and hills of Decatur County in 1853 but in 1870 rail fever was still high. Residents of Decatur County approved by a vote of 1,742 to 1,298 the proposals to donate \$100,000 to the Toledo and Louisville Railroad for a plan to build a line from New Castle to North Vernon through Greensburg and \$50,000 to the St. Louis and Cincy Road for a plan to run a line from Merom to Greensburg to Cincinnati.

But back to our history.

In 1879 George W. McKee and Robert W. Montgomery launched The Greensburg Review, a Republican paper. In 1884 McKee sold one fourth interest to John Q. Donnell. On Sept. 1, 1885 Donnell sold his interest to A. M. Willoughby who for two years prior had been city editor of The Standard and the firm became Montgomery and Willoughby. This partnership existed for 10 years. In 1884 it became a semi-weekly, issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On July 1, 1895 Montgomery sold two-thirds of his one-half interest to Ed D. Donnell and the partnership of Willoughby and Donnell continued until April, 1897 when Donnell died. Willoughby was editor and Dix D. Hazelrigg city editor when The Greensburg Daily Review was established on Nov. 29, 1898. In June 1912 the Daily Review Printing Company was formed by Will H. Robbins, Dan S. Perry, David A. Myers, Fred L. Thomas and A. M. Willoughby.

But in the meantime another star was shining in the journalistic heavens.

Frank Trimble and Ed Lines, on Jan. 1, 1894, had launched the first daily paper to be published in Greensburg - The Daily News. Four months later Lines sold to Trimble who afterwards sold out to Harry Matthews who in turn sold to James D. White. White died in 1902 and James E. Caskey bought the paper and took charge in December, 1902. Trimble and Lines founded the paper in the room over what is now Carney's Store on the north side of the square. It claimed a circulation of 200. When Matthews took over in 1898 he moved the shop to what is now the Eagles Building on South Broadway. When Caskey took over he moved the office to West Main in the room now occupied by Hayward's Restaurant. In 1906 he moved to the Goyert Building where Rodefild's is located. The News had a circulation of 350 when Caskey assumed the editor's chair and The Weekly News, established by Matthews in 1898, had a circulation of about 560.

At the turn of the century, although there were three daily papers published here, the weekly papers had the larger circulations. Greensburg was then a city of 5,034. It was about to hire its first policeman. It had its first electric lights, a city hall, some fire-fighting equipment, a waterworks and was about to install a sewer system and welcome the first interurban car. The first building of the IOOF Home had been dedicated. And the first auto came to town to mark the begin-



ning of the end of one of the community's principal industries - manufacture of wagons and buggies.

The Kingston and Springhill postoffices were discontinued in favor of rural mail routes carried by horses. This was the end of hack routes that carried papers to postoffices. DeArmond and Williams advertised phonographs and graphophones. Gen. Lew Wallace and James Whitcomb Riley were the deans of the Hoosier school of writers. Among the stores here were: Mills Henry and Co., S. P. Minear and Co., The E. G. Schultz Co., Phil H. Spohn, jeweler; O. L. Fulse and Co., contractors and builders; Woodfills; Tillson, the jeweler; Model Grocery; Cincy Clothing Factory, Grover and Bonner and Battertons.

Butter was 15 cents a pound, chickens 8 cents, wheat 84 cents, corn 62 cents, cattle \$3.50 and hogs \$6.20. George W. Magee advertised calico at 2½ cents a yard, percale, 5 cents, muslin, 2½ cents and silk 85 cents. Women's union suits were 18 cents and fleeced hose cost 29 cents.

The soldier's monument was dedicated at Indianapolis and The Standard was sure "this is a Republican year." All signs point to it. He was right, McKinley was elected. He died a few months later at the hands of an assassin and Teddy Roosevelt moved into the White House.

The Standard provided a footnote on the racial issue with this report: "The incident of the colored minister extending the first greeting of his brother pastors at the reception for Pastor Starr in this city is scarcely noticed. It was taken for granted as being all right. A half century ago it would have created the biggest commotion ever seen in church circles in Greensburg. Yes, verily, "the world do move."

The format of papers had changed and some heads were used larger than the body type of the story. The Standard used such a head when the postoffice safe in the K. of P. building was blown. And from this report - "the scoundrels ran out the back way and turned north through the alley leading north to First Street where they had in readiness a horse and buggy they had stolen."

Last week we thrilled to the space ride of Gus Grissom and John Young and the Ranger 9's feat of photographing the moon - both steps in this nation's efforts to launch a man to the moon in a few years. An item from The Standard in 1900 is interesting.

It carried three columns of satire on an interview with the man in the moon. It seriously explained that visits to the moon might be possible if man could solve the problem of perpetual motion, learn to suspend the power of gravitation and find the means to suspend and recover respiration at will. Not until then - and its conclusion was that in all probability this would never be - will you find out how an inhabitant of this sphere could visit the moon and return to report himself alive and kicking. We might use the words of the old editor - "Yes, verily, times do change."

And the next change in the newspaper story in Greensburg came in 1910. Walter A. Kaler, who had been publishing a paper at St. Paul,



decided to come to town. He felt another Democratic paper was needed here. He established The Daily Democrat on April 9, 1910. Within a few months a company was formed to purchase the business. Officers of the corporation were Alexander Forter, president; John F. Russell, vice president; and Charles H. Ewing, secretary. Kaler continued as editor and manager until the following year when he moved to Florida. The Daily Democrat, by now called The Greensburg Daily Times or The Evening Times, was the first to install modern printing machinery. Its linotype was the first to be used in the county, according to historians, although it is difficult today to fathom how the other dailies could get the job done by handsetting all type. Charles H. Ewing succeeded Kaler as editor and manager in Feb. 1911 and two years later stepped out in favor of Hamilton Mercer, a newsman who gained some fame in 1914 with his article on "The Reproach of Capital Punishment" in which he claimed it was administered out of a spirit of vengeance. And some 50 years later it became a hot issue again in the Indiana General Assembly.

The Evening Times published a weekly edition under the masthead of The Weekly Democrat.

There were now four daily newspapers and five weekly newspapers in Greensburg. The dailies in 1915 were: Caskey's Daily News, The Evening Times, The Greensburg Daily Review and The Daily Graphic - two Republican papers and two Democratic papers. The weeklies were: Mr. Braden's Standard and the weeklies published by the four daily papers.

The handwriting was on the wall and starvation is a strong inducement.

But this was a situation that prevailed over much of the nation. The wish to have opposition parties and segments of these parties represented had resulted in more newspapers than were necessary to serve communities in the purveying of either news or advertising and with the decline of partisan feeling as a dominant motive in journalism it became possible to reduce the number of papers.

The merger became the recognized technique for "cleaning up" ruinous competitive situations.

Mr. Braden, publisher of The Standard, joined with Edward A. Remy in 1915 in purchasing the Daily Greensburg Review. They discontinued the weekly published by the Review firm. The Daily Graphic, published by Rucher since 1902, tossed in the sponge. This reduced the field of dailies to three.

In this same year James Caskey, publisher of The Daily News, died.

The next transaction came Jan. 1, 1918 when Mr. Braden and Edward J. Hancock bought The News from Mr. Caskey's widow. Mr. Braden's daily, The Daily Review, was consolidated with The Daily News and The Standard retained as the weekly paper. About this same time the weekly New Era perished. Remy, one of the original owners of The Review, had retired.



The field had been cut to two dailies and two weeklies - The Daily News and its weekly Standard and The Daily Evening Times and its weekly, The Democrat.

Mercer had stepped out as editor of The Times in 1915 and Smiley Fowler became editor and manager for the next 10 years. William B. Porter published it for a short time but financial difficulties resulted in a series of sales and reorganizations culminating in the death of The Evening Times as a daily paper in 1928. Arrangements were made at that time to publish The Times as a weekly paper at the plant of The Greensburg Daily News. The last issue of The Greensburg Standard, which traced its history back to 1835, was published on Feb. 26, 1926. The last reorganization of the Greensburg Times Company was effective April 13, 1929 and the paper is still published by the plant of The Daily News and has a circulation of about 800. Smiley Fowler is president of The Times Company and the paper's editor. The Daily News has a circulation of about 6,000. These are the last entries in the history of newspapers in Greensburg that effected the number of papers and the one daily and one weekly status has continued for more than 35 years.

The present Greensburg News Publishing Company was incorporated July 1, 1923 and in August of that year The News moved to its present location on the square. The corporation is now headed by Mrs. Marie Dorchers, chairman of the board, and Walter B. Lowe, president and general manager.

Although it was intended to confine this history to the secular press, it should be mentioned that the Baptist Observer, a state organ of that denomination, was started by a minister at Burney in 1901 and had a large plant in Greensburg until 1910 when it moved to Seymour. The Evening Times, the daily published by the Porter corporation, took over the plant of the Baptist paper--presses and full equipment.

It should also be mentioned that one paper published here attained a circulation of about 80,000. This was "The Coming Nation," started in August, 1892 by J. A. Wayland, a native of Versailles. Wayland was a socialist of great ability and greater literary skill and his paper became known throughout the nation. Apparently the hand-operated press never stopped in order to turn out this number of copies although it is not known whether it was a weekly - or as seems more likely - a monthly publication.

And back there in 1915 when Greensburg had four dailies and five weeklies, there were weekly papers at St. Paul, Clarksburg and Westport

The research for this history unearthed an editor's lament. I should like to share with you "Behold, the Editor," probably penned about the turn of the century by an unknown author.

A child is born to a merchant in town. The physician getteth 10 plunks. The editor writeth a stick and a half and telleth the multitude that the child tippeth the beam at nine pounds. Yeah, he lieth even as a centurion. And the proud father giveth him a cigar.



Behold, the young one groweth up and graduateth. And the editor putteth into his paper a swell notice. He telleth of her exceeding comeliness. Like unto the Roses of Sharon is she, and her gown is played up to beat the band.

And the dressmaker getteth two score and four iron men. And the editor getteth a note of thanks from the sweet girl graduate.

And the daughter goeth on a journey. And the editor throweth himself on the story of the farewell party. It runneth a column solid. And the fair one remembereth him from afar with a post card that costeth six for a jitney.

Behold, she returneth! And the youth of the town fall down and worship. She picketh one, and lo, she picketh a lemon. But the editor calleth him one of our promising young men and getteth away with it. And they send unto the editor a bid to the wedding. And behold, the bids are fashioned in a far city.

Flowery and long the wedding notice which the editor printeth. The minister getteth 10 bones. The groom standeth off the editor for a 12 months subscription.

All flesh is grass, and in time the wife is gathered unto the soil. The minister getteth his bit. The editor printeth a death notice, two columns of obituary, three lodge notices, a cubit of poetry, and a card of thanks.

And the editor forgetteth to read proof on the head, and the darn thing cometh out; "Gone to Her Last Roasting Place."

And all that are akin to the deceased jumpeth on the editor with exceedingly great jumps. And they pulleth out their ads and cancellet their subscriptions and they swing the hammer even unto the third and fourth generations.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMERICAN ALMANAC - At six o'clock in the morning of Friday, August 3, 1492, three tiny vessels dropped down the Rio Tinto from Palos, Spain, into the Gulf of Cadiz. They were the ship SANTA MARIA, and the caravels NINA and PINTA. Under command of Cristobal Colon (Christopher Columbus) were not quite a hundred men, including surly and unwilling sailors impressed from the docks of Palos, and a physician, historian, notary, metallurgist and an interpreter qualified to converse in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Coptic and Armenian. Past the convent of La Rabida, which had sheltered him, Columbus steered his fleet out to sea, its course fixed on an unknown goal which was to be a New World.

\* \* \* \* \*



\* \* \* \* \*

\* YE EDITOR takes this opportunity to express his \*  
\* Best Wishes of the Season for his readers and par- \*  
\* ticularly for the out of town members. Many of the \*  
\* latter are known to him, although they are scat- \*  
\* tered from New York to California, and from the \*  
\* Gulf to the Great Lakes. All are natives of Deca- \*  
\* tur County or have close ties here, and it must \*  
\* be this tie that they wish to maintain - their \*  
\* only reason for their continued membership in the \*  
\* Society. If the BULLETIN in any way helps to fill \*  
\* the void caused by nostalgia in the lives of these \*  
\* transplanted Hoosiers, this correspondent is happy. \*  
\* Bless you! AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS! \*

\* \* \* \* \*



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 34

Greensburg, Indiana

December 1, 1967

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Elsie Shortridge - Indpls.  
Mrs. Versie Steele - Aurora  
Mrs. Olive Tumilty 572

THE DISPLAY

The display, always a feature of the dinner meeting, will be one of old books. Members will be asked to contribute books which they neither read nor care for.. Here is an opportunity to reduce your shelves! And who knows- the book you discard may be another's find...All books will be priced for sale, the proceeds to go to the Society...And for the purpose, anything in print and bound, will be considered a book- paperbacks, pamphlets of interest, fiction, science, travel, history, catalogs as a 1903 Sears, almanacs, annuals, text books (including McGuffeys), year books, etc.

The books we think we ought to read are poky, dull and dry;  
The books that we would like to read we are ashamed to buy;  
The books that people talk about, we never can recall;  
And the books that people give us, Oh, they're the worst of all!  
-Carolyn Wells

IMPORTANT-CALL PAUL H. HUBER AT 663-6866 BEFORE FRIDAY MORNING DECEMBER 15th IF YOU HAVE BOOKS TO CONTRIBUTE. THESE WILL BE COLLECTED FRIDAY MORNING.

\* \* \* \* \*

BE AN EARLY BIRD! Save postage by paying your 1968 membership fee at the dinner. Annual dues are still one dollar!

OCCASION: Ninth Annual Dinner Meeting and Election of Officers.

DATE: Friday night, December 15, 1967 at 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: Keillor's Restaurant  
State Road 3 North  
Greensburg, Indiana

PROGRAM: Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beesley are naturalists and photographers from Cedar Grove, Indiana, their specialty being the wildflowers of Franklin County and surrounding areas. They have photographed thousands of plants and have some five hundred slides of different species. Their material has been widely used in illustrating book jackets and articles of botanical nature in various Indiana magazines and publications. Mr. & Mrs. Beesley have lectured before high school groups, clubs and other student bodies. She will narrate the slides shown by Mr. Beesley.

RESERVATIONS

If you have not been contacted, please call Mr. Gene H. McCoy at 663-6561 not later than Wednesday, December 13th if you plan to attend the dinner. Tickets are \$2.50 each. Members will be expected to honor their reservations.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME! IF YOU CANT ATTEND THE DINNER, COME LATER FOR THE PROGRAM.



CLIFTY  
(Milford Village)

A post village of Decatur County, in Clay Township, situated on a creek of the same name, 7 miles west from Greensburg, the capitol of the county, and 45 miles southeast from Indianapolis.

It contains two Protestant churches, one Masonic lodge, one lodge I.O.O.F., three general stores, two groceries, one hotel, one woolen factory, several flouring and saw mills in the vicinity, and varied mechanical branches and professions. Population 500. Township 2,000. Post office established in 1830.

ISAAC W. FUGET, Postmaster.

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Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Armstrong T., saddle and harness maker.  
Braden R., resident farmer.  
Burney Milton, resident farmer.  
Byrne H. O., resident farmer.  
Clark John, barber and broom manufacturer.  
Colee Hannah, baker and grocer.  
Cook H., cabinet maker.  
Critser H.R., prop'r water grist mill.  
Critser Henry, prop'r water saw mill.  
Fugot H.F., attorney at law.  
Fugot I.W., attorney at law, notary public, insurance agent, justice of peace and surveyor.  
Fugel Mrs. Mary A., milliner and dress maker.  
Furney Samuel, daguerrean artist.  
Guest James, boot and shoe maker.  
Heaton R. & Co., prop'rs water flouring and grist mills.  
Howell W., justice of peace.  
Hunter M.C., carriage and wagon maker.  
Jayer D.A., blacksmith.  
Jones Daniel, chair manufacturer.  
Jones Henry, cabinet maker.  
King J.G., resident farmer.  
Knight Henry, carpenter and township trustee.  
Krugdon S., sash, blind and door maker.  
Krught H., village trustee.  
Leach E.W., physician and village trustee.  
Legget James, painter.  
McAllister Lewis, physician, and dealer in wines and liquors.  
McAllister Mrs. Rachel, dress maker.  
Mandlove J., village trustee.  
Mandlove James, general merchant and attorney at law.  
Mandlove & Griffey, dealers in stoves, tin, and sheet iron ware.  
Marsh Mrs. Z., school teacher.  
Marsh Wm. T., carpenter.  
Marshall H.A., saddle and harness maker.  
Messenheimer C., carpenter.  
Pavy W., tailor.  
Phillips Wm., carriage, wagon and plow maker.  
Ponner Wm. H., school teacher.



Read E.B., physician.  
Rose U., resident farmer.  
Russell Robert C., general merchant.  
Self K., justice of peace.  
Smith A.J., blacksmith.  
Smith James, blacksmith.  
Solomon H., woolen manufacturer, dyer and scourer.  
Solomon Hiram, carding machine.  
Tillson W.S., general merchant and druggist.  
Tillson W.S., village trustee and dealer in jewelry, watches, clocks, etc.  
Ward D., blacksmith and plow maker.  
Ward D., edge tool manufacturer and gunsmith.  
Welsh M.C., hide and leather dealer, auctioneer and butcher.  
Welsh M.C., constable, village treasurer and collector.  
West G.W., shingle maker.  
Wiley James M., saloon keeper and grocer.  
Wolverton William, boot and shoe maker.  
Wooden John L., physician.

(This was Milford in 1860-ed)

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE INFORMATION PLEASE!

Miss Aletheia Pattison, 5 Dexter Place, E.W.H., Cincinnati, Ohio would appreciate information about Mrs. George Lewis Gatch, who at one time lived in Greensburg, or of a Mr. Wm. Armington Abbott.

Dorothy N. Lloyd, P.O.Box 1336, Hollywood, Florida, 33022, would appreciate information on the Paul family. She is particularly interested in Jonathan Paul, who was on the 1830 census, age 6-69, especially his date of death. His daughter Mary C. Paul was born Xenia, Ohio 1812; his wife is believed to be Mary (Griffin) Paul and to have died between 1820-1830. She further believes Jonathon Paul was the brother of the John Paul who founded Xenia, Ohio and Madison, Indiana.

Charles M. Hiner, P.O.Box 145, East Berlin, Pa., 17316 seeks the names of Samuel Hiner's father and mother. Samuel Hiner is buried in the Milford Cemetery, born Dec. 8, 1807 and died June 26, 1890.

Jennie Huntzinger, RFD 1, Box 57, Pendleton, Indiana, 46064 would appreciate information on "Crumm - Crumme - Crumbore ?? family - 17 children from your county."

\* \* \* \* \*

From records in the Office of the Clerk of the Decatur Circuit Court:

Civil Order Book No. A. Page 6. Dated October, 1822  
"Ordered by the court that the following shall be the description and devices of the County seal for Decatur County (Towit) "Seal of the Decatur Circuit Court" And a nightingale to be engraved with a bough in its mouth."

-By Mrs. Chas. Loucks



## EARLY NEWSPAPERS

H. G. Stuhrenberg

(Presented before the Society in 1965, we consider Mr. Stuhrenberg's paper so well done, that we again offer it here, particularly for the out of town members. Well researched and aside from being an excellent resume of the history of the local "fourth estate", it glows with a lot of other interesting bits of memorabilia. Mr. Stuhrenberg is the city editor of the GREENSBURG DAILY NEWS-ed.)

We Americans have never been without newspapers although in the early days in the new world they did not bear the "made in America" label or bear much resemblance to the paper we know today.

To satisfy the hunger for news of the early colonists there were letters from England. Packets of newspapers were sent to some by their correspondents abroad and delivered by captains of sailing ships.

Their ties were to Europe and they longed for news of the land from where they had sailed. In their new home, communities were small and there was little need for a newspaper.

Later, news letters were issued from Boston, Philadelphia and London with capsule sketches of events.

Royal governors of the early colonies were opposed to printing and it was a half a century after the first press was set up at the then two-year-old Harvard College in Cambridge, Mass., in 1638 before the appearance of the first American newspaper.

Benjamin Harris published the first newspaper on Sept. 25, 1690 under the title "Public Occurrences, both Foreign and Domestic." Issued from the London Coffee House, Boston, it was intended to be "furnished once a month or if any glut of occurrences happens, oftener.

It was promptly suppressed because certain reflections were distasteful to Gov. Simon Bradstreet of Massachusetts. Harris was a London bookseller and publisher who had come to Boston four years before after fleeing England because he had been sentenced to pillory and prison for exposing a plot. Harris, although not given the shroud of a hero in newspaper history, did earn his niche as father of American newspapers with his admirable, if brief, excursion into journalism.

It was 14 years before the first successful newspaper was started in America. Harris' experience may have discouraged others. John Campbell, a New England postmaster, issued The Boston News Letter, the first issue of which bore the date April 17-24, 1704. In 15 years it reached a circulation of 300.

A century later when Indian treaties had cleared the country east of the Mississippi for settlement, Elihu Stout, one of many printers trained in the office of the Kentucky Gazette at Lexington, established the first paper in Indiana at Vincennes in 1804. It was called the Indiana Gazette, later the Western Sun and is still published as the



Vincennes Sun Commercial. In that newspaper office today is a picture of Stout and a staff willing to inform one and all of their heritage. Interestingly enough, there are several copies of the second issue of Stout's paper but all efforts have failed to locate a single copy of the first issue.

As students of history, you have recognized that our chronology is now approaching the days when Decatur County and Greensburg came into being. Settlers were coming into this section of Indiana following a trail set by the swinging axe of the Pennsylvania surveyor, Colonel Thomas Hendricks, who started Greensburg in 1820. Two years later, June 14, 1822, the settlement of perhaps 100, was selected as the county seat.

Perhaps the growth of newspapers at this time was due partly to the decrease of illiteracy. Circulation of American newspapers remained small but they grew in numbers. In 1833 the New York Courier and Enquirer, claiming a circulation of 4,500, was undoubtedly the largest paper in the county. By this time Cincinnati was a great western distribution center for printer's supplies. Decatur pioneers, like those in other areas of Indiana, made the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, a widely read newspaper. The papers were transported by stage and horseback to Brockville where the Indiana land office was located. Decatur County residents often did not receive papers for weeks or months. And when they arrived they contained news of Washington and countries in Europe. We must remember that these were the days it required 18 to 20 days to haul merchandise by ox carts over mud trails from Cincinnati to Indianapolis.

Greensburg in 1830-32 was a village of 400 or 500 persons in homes mostly around the square. About one-fourth of the lots on the square were vacant and others occupied by brick, frame and log buildings. Not too many years later three stage coach lines served Greensburg and the delivery of papers from larger cities was improved.

The first newspaper in Greensburg came in the spring of 1830 when Elijah Mitchell, one of the pioneers of 1823, began "The Greensburg Chronicle," and after about a year sold the outfit to Thomas Dowling who changed the name to "The Political Clarion." He continued the paper until the close of the Clay-Jackson campaign of 1832 when he sold out to James Harvey Brown, whose editorial career was a brief one - the paper dying a few month later.

For three years following the death of "The Clarion", the county was without a paper.

But such a vacuum could not long endure. Men and women carving new homes in the wilderness wanted newspapers in order to promote the spread of their favorite partisan political doctrine and as a printed booster sheet--a sort of pioneer Chamber of Commerce brochure--they could send back East filled with propaganda for the new country. And historians credit the sheets with being effective in keeping up the flow of emigration.

It is often said that papers of that day - mostly weeklies with a circulation of a few hundred where the editor was often his own re-



porter, typesetter, pressman and circulation and advertising manager, were "editorially verbose, typographically ugly, intensely personal and violently partisan."

As we come to the next chapter in the story of Greensburg newspapers it might be wise to review the political situation of that era. The Democratic party was until 1854 the party of Andrew Jackson. The Whig party was formed in the 1830s by a union of several anti-Jackson groups, chiefly the National Republicans, the Anti-Masons and Southern Anti-Jackson Democrats. Its great leaders were Henry Clay and Daniel Webster. But in 1854 the repeal of the Missouri Compromise and passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act caused a realignment of parties on the slavery issue: The Democrats emerged as the pro-slavery party; the Republican Party was established on the basis of opposition to slavery and the Whig organization dissolved. The period of 1833-1860 was in the main a Democratic era. Except for the four years of the Taylor-Fillmore administration, Democratic ideas prevailed and that party won five of the seven national elections. Now it would be wrong to think of the Whig papers of that era as a "kept" press but they did have certain financial advantages in some areas.

In the fall of 1835 in Greensburg, John Thomson, a brother-in-law of Elijah Mitchell, founder of first paper and a great-grandfather of Mrs. Marie Borchers, issued a prospectus for a paper to be called The Greensburg Repository. Despite his ardent Whig sentiments he entertained some doubts whether a partisan paper could be maintained here and proposed that it be a "family newspaper, independent, but not neutral."

At about the same time a William Vallette Coleman came from Brookville with a crude press and a shirt-tail full of type from a defunct Democratic newspaper and proposed a partnership in the new enterprise with Thomson. When Thomson showed little enthusiasm for such a shotgun political marriage, Coleman immediately began the publication of a Democratic paper called "The Greensburg Courier." This gave Thomson the opportunity to abandon his proposed neutrality - a change his son later said was not an altogether unpleasant decision - and when he first issued "The Repository" in December, 1835, it bore at its head the motto "The Union, The Constitution and Enforcement of Laws" and underneath in bold face type there read - For President, General William Henry Harrison, of Ohio, subject to the decision of the Whig National Convention. Thomson's man didn't make it in 1836 but he did justify the editor's faith by turning the tables on VanBuren in 1840.

Coleman's Democratic paper survived the winter of 1835 and 1836 but when the roads settled in the Spring, its proprietor loaded it on a wagon and headed for Shelbyville.

The following year, 1837, when Greensburg, then a community of perhaps 800, was incorporated as a town, "The Repository" was the only paper to record that news and Thomson continued his monopoly until the early part of 1841.

It is well to bear in mind as we weave the threads of this newspaper tapestry that "The Repository" had established deep roots in this



community and would survive until 1928, although its name was changed and it had many owners.

In 1841, Peter J. Bartholomew began the publication of a paper with the somewhat lengthy title "The Chronicle of the Times." He died a few months later and Philander Hamilton and James Monroe Talbot purchased it and changed the name to "The Decatur Sentinel." A year later the same paper appeared as "The Decatur Phoenix" under the proprietorship of Israel T. Gibson. Both "The Repository" and "The Phoenix" had limited patronage, however, and in November, 1843, the two were consolidated under the name of "The Repository" which is probably a good clue in identifying the one with "the urge to merge." And if one needs additional evidence, it can be found in the statement of policy in the first edition after the merger. Addressed to "kind patrons" it announced it was "Whig to the core" and as such would advocate - in a mild but uncompromising spirit - the measures and principles of The Great Whig party to wit: A sound national bank; a protective tariff; the land distribution; restriction of the veto; one presidential term and would support the nomination of the Great Whig Leader, the orator and statesman, Henry Clay, of Kentucky, as the Whig candidate for the presidency in 1844. With this out of his system, the editor got into the commercial - "This number of the Repository will be sent to all those who were subscribers to the Phoenix. If, after reading it, they do not wish to become subscribers they will please send it back. We hope, however, that none of them stop; every man should have a paper, and more especially for the coming year. Our State Legislature and Congress both convene on Monday next and by the time they adjourn the Presidential canvass will be fairly under way, and, this being the case, we cannot see, for the life of us, how any man can get along without a newspaper. Under those considerations, we hope that our friends not only stick to us, but use some exertion to get their neighbors to take The Repository."

Files of the papers of that day show that printers were forced to set their papers in two or three sizes of type, not in order to display one article more than another, but because they had too small a supply of any one size. Headings were usually little more than date lines and anything approaching the headlines of later journalism were rare. The majority of papers made very modest incomes on small investments.

There was no standard makeup. Three-quarters of the front page might be filled with advertising and the remainder devoted to literary miscellany or a political essay. Essays of the lighter variety, anecdotes and poetry were common fare.

It might be interesting to take a look at first issue of the merged Repository and Phoenix - Dec. 1, 1843.

It reported that the Caledonia arrived in Boston on Monday evening last. The news brought by her is not of great importance. Interpretation - we have received our papers from Europe but don't have the space to print much of what was in them.



A historical note - The Cincinnati and White Water Canal was opened for boats on Wednesday last. They had a great time at Cincinnati on the occasion. And reprinted from the Brookville American was this item: There has been a break in the canal about five miles above this place, which will probably occupy some eight or 10 days in repairing.

The issue devoted two columns to a story from the Farmers' Magazine on how to propose. It started off by saying girls are queer little animals and then it interpreted the yes or no by the sound of the utterance and suggested that if the lady says No when her actions say Yes, do not, we beseech you, tear your hair out and fly off in a tangent. The hook caught and by giving her plenty of line, playing with her delicately and scientifically, you can, in time, draw her to your arms as she blushing confesses the power and potency of your charms.

Now I ask you did Dorothy Dix or Ann Landers ever give advice more to the point?

Three columns on the front page were devoted to a speech by the Honorable Daniel Webster at Baltimore.

It was filled with tidbits of prose such as "May we kiss the girl we please and please the girls we kiss."

In a political vein - after the Whigs had been defeated in bid for state offices - "We venture the assertion that not since that memorable day on which the wily serpent beguiled the parents of our race has there been another such scramble after spoils as there now is among the Democrats of the state - all prominent men of the party are standing like a hungry cub, with jaws distended, ready to pounce on jobs."

Gabriel Woodfill ran a card announcing he wanted immediately a quantity of wheat, feathers, flaxseed and country orders for which he promised to give the highest price on delivery, at his store, in store goods.

J. and F. R. Blair announced the fresh arrival of a fine assortment of reasonable goods and were wanting 1,000 bushels of dried peaches, 9,000 bushels of flaxseed and 2,000 pounds of feathers. And despite a special effort I couldn't find how they stored 2,000 pounds of feathers.

Robinson and Heuser advertised as carriage, wagon and plow makers

Samuel Austin informed the readers he had opened a silversmithing shop on the corner immediately south of Potter's tavern.

S. Bryan and Hueston offered to accept feathers, beeswax, peaches rags, flax and linen in exchange for dry goods, hardware, queensware, groceries, dye-stuffs, bonnets, hats, boots and shoes.

This, of course, was the day of Godey's Lady's Book, the best magazine of the season. It wasn't cheap. Two copies for \$5. But it con-



tained colored fashion plates and if my history is correct the women made dresses from these pictures because there were no patterns available.

The Repository offered to take the following articles of the "better currency" in payment of subscriptions - peaches, apples, beans wood, bacon, sugar, chickens, wheat, meal, linen and flour.

Those early editors had their problems. Roads were bad, Collections worse and paper could be procured only for cash. It wasn't long after this that one editor announced in his paper: "There will be no paper next week; we are out of money, out of paper and we can't and won't buy on credit." The paper did not appear for two weeks.

Or another SOS. "Very late and important--we are just out of wood and would be very much pleased to receive a few loads immediately. Wood that is dry and would burn well in a stove would suit us best."

The Repository market report listed beef cattle at \$3 per hundred-weight; feathers, 21 cents pound; dried fruit - peaches \$1 bushel, apples 50 cents; flour \$3.60 barrel and hogs \$2.50 a hundred.

But they had classified ads - Found on the streets of Greensburg, a live full grown, sawdust, broom and rag bustle; Owner can obtain same by applying at this office.

And the advertisers often created amazing effects when they "let themselves go". Witness the following poetical effusions, quoted only in part:

Thus Alexander knelt at beauty's shrine  
And Anthony thought Cleopatra's charms divine;  
Celestial beauty--daughter of the skies--  
Fair-skinned, rose-cheeked and lily-necked arise!  
Try Radway's Chinese Medicated Soap!  
This and This alone each form will purify  
And make the ugliest handsome to the eye;  
This for pimples, blotches, tetters, rheum  
Will banish all before its rich perfume.....

And they wonder who the ancestors of the TV commercial writers were!

When The Repository and The Phoenix merged, the Thomson paper was operated by Orville Thomson, son of the founder, and the Phoenix by Jacob W. Mills. They continued the management of the paper, either together or individually, until 1851. It then went into the hands of Davies Batterton and William H. Hazelrigg, William H. Rhiver being taker into the firm later. In July, 1853, it was again purchased by Orville Thomson and continued by him until the later part of 1856 when it went into the hands of the former firm again. With the issue of Dec. 26, 1856, the paper appeared as The Decatur Republican. In 1858 the paper was acquired by J. J. Hazelrigg and George R. Rhiver. Rhiver died in 1862 and Hazelrigg continued the paper until 1863 and then sold it to Dr. S. H. Riley, J. B. Mallett and Redin E. Conover. In 1865 they sold



it to Will Pound. In 1868 Pound sold to J. J. Hazelrigg; in 1872 Hazelrigg to Joseph A. McKee; in 1873, McKee to George H. McKee; 1878, George H. McKee to J. J. Hazelrigg who with his sons operated it until 1894 when the late Luther D. Braden became the owner and editor. Since 1848, under the several managements, it bore several different names - Decatur Clarion, Decatur Press, Decatur Republican, Greensburg Chronicle and finally in 1868, The Greensburg Standard, the name it carried until its demise.

As the Decatur Republican in 1858 it was the first among Indiana newspapers to pronounce "For president in 1860, Abraham Lincoln."

By the close of the Fremont campaign in 1856, the subscription list had grown to a little over 600, a number that, run off on the old hand press, was about the peak of the country editor's ambition - and certainly his mechanical capacity. It was a four-page paper with hand-set type and sold for \$2, \$2.50 or \$3.00 a year, depending on how the subscriber settled with the publisher.

From 1836 to 1841 and again from 1843 to 1850, The Repository, its predecessors and its successors, had no competition.

But in 1850 Oscar B. Hord and Charles R. Hobbs established a Democratic paper by the name of The Greensburg Gazette. In 1852 it gave way to the Democratic Rifle with Bernard Mullen as editor but in the words of one historian - obviously a Whig - it succumbed under the withering frosts of the ensuing November. John B. Covington started another Democratic paper in 1856 and maintained the struggle for three years until sometime in 1859 in which year the following notice appeared in The Decatur Republican - "The Democrat office of this place was sold last week at sheriff's sale for \$25.25--rather a small price for a printing office."

Any attempt to recite a history of newspapers in Greensburg must of necessity make use of a history compiled in 1895 by Orville Thomson the editor of some of those early papers and son of the founder of The Repository. But there are two significant blanks in his history. Thomson's account points out that the name of Covington's Democratic paper could not be learned. Here permit me to give you another example of the value of old papers and documents preserved by your organization and its members. When an earlier historical society was disbanded a few years ago, provision was made to store in a locked chest in the Greensburg library certain records and documents. In going through these some days ago, I found a copy of The Greensburg Guard published by John B. Covington - here was the missing link in this history. It closed a gap that had been open for more than 70 years. And undoubtedly it is the only copy of The Greensburg Guard in existence - preserved because of the historical society's thoughtfulness. Thomson records that another Democratic paper was established shortly after this but was absorbed in 1863 by The Decatur Republican. I might tell you that in the files of the historical society at the library is a copy of this paper - The Decatur Democrat, published by William H. Vanhorn & Company - another missing link.



For the next six years - during the period of the Civil War - there was only one paper in Greensburg.

There was a tremendous increase in newspaper readership in the middle of the century. Favorable mail rates - free for several years - a population explosion, free public education, change from candles to oil lamps and gas lights in cities and increased interest in public affairs were factors.

One of the striking features of newspapers of that day was the reckless use of adjectives. In 1858 the Decatur Democrat and the Rushville Jacksonian were "on the outs" on the slavery question. The former was opposed to slavery and branded the Buchanan administration as a "humbug and a swindle." The Jacksonian stood for the simon-pure democracy of the day. The Decatur Republican, referring to the bitter words that had been tossed back and forth, said: "They respectively make each other out as extreme great liars and very dirty dogs, and it gives us much pleasure in uttering the conviction that they both tell the truth."

During the Civil War, the editor of The Decatur Republican sometimes waxed hot in criticizing those who were lukewarm for the Union and once in a while laid down the law. In 1863, when the Knights of the Golden Circle were getting very bold in the southern part of the county and were considering taking arms to resist the draft, he gave them the following gentle hint: "The draft will be enforced in this county though the streets run red with human gore and torch destroy every town and village in the county. This is fully decided and can be relied upon."

The Republican editor turned his torrid pen a few years earlier on a Democratic paper that had a brief earthly career. On March 25, 1863, Burnham and Howell put out the first issue of The Greensburg Fact. In November of the same year this tribute was paid in The Republican: "Died--In this city last week, of starvation, The Greensburg Fact. Mourners scarce."

But in 1869 Martin Zorger and Martin Blair established another Democratic paper that was to continue for many years. The Democratic New Era finally tossed in the sponge about the time of World War I. Owners in success were Zorger, Ed D. Donnell and James Hart, W. A. Donnell and Sons, J. E. Mendenhall, Allen W. Clark, W. H. Glidewell and Dr. J. W. Rucker who came to Greensburg from Shelbyville in 1902 and became the editor of The Daily Graphic which was issued from the New Era office until it died in January, 1915. During the summer of 1878, O. F. McLane, a young teacher of Jackson Township started another Democratic paper under the name of The Decatur Democrat, which was absorbed by the other paper of that political faith after a brief career.

But let us pause in this chronology at the 1870 milestone. Greensburg has two weekly papers - The Greensburg Standard and The Democratic New Era. The advent of railroads and telegraph had affected newspaper publication tremendously and the introduction of the power press revolutionized the mechanical side of the industry. But more was to come.



Mergenthaler was to introduce the first linotype machine in the late 1880s. The typewriter clumsy though it was, meant more speed. And then Bell came with the telephone. It was also in these years that rag pulp paper gave way to chemical wood pulp.

But 1870 seems to be a good time to take another look at our files.

One issue of The Standard devoted a whole column to criticizing women's dress.

"Young girls and ripe matrons need not go about robed like religious fanatics but let those to whom a high-necked and long-sleeved party dress could be a grievous affliction content themselves with showing a modest rim of shoulder above their bodices. And let them not forget that well turned white arms can be seen and appreciated without necessity of being exposed clear up to the armpits. No fair young girl ever lost anything in the estimation of men, whose opinion is worth having, by appearing with neck, shoulders and arms chastely veiled in delicate lace or muslin, instead of exposing them to the promiscuous gaze of a public assembly."

Greensburg then had a population of about 2,600. It was a city of unpaved streets, slab sidewalks, gas streetlights. And it was about this time that the first tree was observed on the 10-year-old courthouse tower.

President Grant had the passageway in the White House converted into a billiard room; Mormon women in Salt Lake City were protesting against passage of an anti-polygmy bill in the U.S. house of representatives; sewing machines were advertised; And in Greensburg Reiter's advertised fur muffs and men's beaver collars and gloves.

The city had a curfew between 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. on youngsters under 15 with the courthouse bell serving as the signal. And it was time to pass the famed goose ordinance which banned hogs, goats, geese, ganders, cows, heifers, steers and bulls from running at large.

The 15th amendment to the Constitution was one of the issues of the day. This amendment said that the right of the citizens of the U.S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or any state on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. The editor of The Standard proved his ability as a prophet in predicting its ratification in a short time but would be flabbergasted were he alive today to witness the demonstrations for it to become effective in some sections of the nation.

And then there was another burning issue that occupied the attention of the editor.

"What eye can follow the course of a couple of modern whirligigs as they describe their wondrous circles on the ballroom floor? Like seaworthy crafts they alternately dip and pitch and skim--now appearing full sail before what would seem a steady breeze; then obeying the sudden rising of the instrumental gale, they swing to the leeward,



roll to the windward, and after a brief struggle are submerged altogether and found at last in some out of the way corner--panting, gasping and perspiring but supremely happy and ready for another cruise." I read on to find he was referring to the round dances - the waltzes, polkas and gallops.

The railroad had placed its ribbons of steel across the fields and hills of Decatur County in 1853 but in 1870 rail fever was still high. Residents of Decatur County approved by a vote of 1,742 to 1,298 the proposals to donate \$100,000 to the Toledo and Louisville Railroad for a plan to build a line from New Castle to North Vernon through Greensburg and \$50,000 to the St. Louis and Cincy Road for a plan to run a line from Merom to Greensburg to Cincinnati.

But back to our history.

In 1879 George W. McKee and Robert W. Montgomery launched The Greensburg Review, a Republican paper. In 1884 McKee sold one fourth interest to John Q. Donnell. On Sept. 1, 1885 Donnell sold his interest to A. M. Willoughby who for two years prior had been city editor of The Standard and the firm became Montgomery and Willoughby. This partnership existed for 10 years. In 1884 it became a semi-weekly, issued on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On July 1, 1895 Montgomery sold two-thirds of his one-half interest to Ed D. Donnell and the partnership of Willoughby and Donnell continued until April, 1897 when Donnell died. Willoughby was editor and Dix D. Hazelrigg city editor when The Greensburg Daily Review was established on Nov. 29, 1898. In June 1912 the Daily Review Printing Company was formed by Will H. Robbins, Dan S. Perry, David A. Myers, Fred L. Thomas and A. M. Willoughby.

But in the meantime another star was shining in the journalistic heavens.

Frank Trimble and Ed Lines, on Jan. 1, 1894, had launched the first daily paper to be published in Greensburg - The Daily News. Four months later Lines sold to Trimble who afterwards sold out to Harry Matthews who in turn sold to James D. White. White died in 1902 and James E. Caskey bought the paper and took charge in December, 1902. Trimble and Lines founded the paper in the room over what is now Carney's Store on the north side of the square. It claimed a circulation of 200. When Matthews took over in 1898 he moved the shop to what is now the Eagles Building on South Broadway. When Caskey took over he moved the office to West Main in the room now occupied by Hayward's Restaurant. In 1906 he moved to the Goyert Building where Redefeld's is located. The News had a circulation of 350 when Caskey assumed the editor's chair and The Weekly News, established by Matthews in 1898, had a circulation of about 560.

At the turn of the century, although there were three daily papers published here, the weekly papers had the larger circulations. Greensburg was then a city of 5,034. It was about to hire its first policeman. It had its first electric lights, a city hall, some fire-fighting equipment, a waterworks and was about to install a sewer system and welcome the first interurban car. The first building of the IOOF Home had been dedicated. And the first auto came to town to mark the begin-



ning of the end of one of the community's principal industries - manufacture of wagons and buggies.

The Kingston and Springhill postoffices were discontinued in favor of rural mail routes carried by horses. This was the end of hack routes that carried papers to postoffices. DeArmond and Williams advertised phonographs and graphophones. Gen. Lew Wallace and James Whitcomb Riley were the deans of the Hoosier school of writers. Among the stores here were: Mills Henry and Co., S. P. Minear and Co., The E. G. Schultz Co., Phil H. Spohn, jeweler; O. L. Fulse and Co., contractors and builders; Woodfills; Tillson, the jeweler; Model Grocery; Cincy Clothing Factory, Grover and Bonner and Battertons.

Butter was 15 cents a pound, chickens 8 cents, wheat 84 cents, corn 62 cents, cattle \$3.50 and hogs \$6.20. George W. Magee advertised calico at 2½ cents a yard, percale, 5 cents, muslin, 2½ cents and silk 85 cents. Women's union suits were 18 cents and fleeced hose cost 29 cents.

The soldier's monument was dedicated at Indianapolis and The Standard was sure "this is a Republican year." All signs point to it. He was right; McKinley was elected. He died a few months later at the hands of an assassin and Teddy Roosevelt moved into the White House.

The Standard provided a footnote on the racial issue with this report: "The incident of the colored minister extending the first greeting of his brother pastors at the reception for Pastor Starr in this city is scarcely noticed. It was taken for granted as being all right. A half century ago it would have created the biggest commotion ever seen in church circles in Greensburg. Yes, verily, "the world do move."

The format of papers had changed and some heads were used larger than the body type of the story. The Standard used such a head when the postoffice safe in the K. of P. building was blown. And from this report - "the scoundrels ran out the back way and turned north through the alley leading north to First Street where they had in readiness a horse and buggy they had stolen."

Last week we thrilled to the space ride of Gus Grissom and John Young and the Ranger 9's feat of photographing the moon - both steps in this nation's efforts to launch a man to the moon in a few years. An item from The Standard in 1900 is interesting.

It carried three columns of satire on an interview with the man in the moon. It seriously explained that visits to the moon might be possible if man could solve the problem of perpetual motion, learn to suspend the power of gravitation and find the means to suspend and recover respiration at will. Not until then - and its conclusion was that in all probability this would never be - will you find out how an inhabitant of this sphere could visit the moon and return to report himself alive and kicking. We might use the words of the old editor - "Yes, verily, times do change."

And the next change in the newspaper story in Greensburg came in 1910. Walter A. Kaler, who had been publishing a paper at St. Paul,



decided to come to town. He felt another Democratic paper was needed here. He established The Daily Democrat on April 9, 1910. Within a few months a company was formed to purchase the business. Officers of the corporation were Alexander Porter, president; John F. Russell, vice president; and Charles H. Ewing, secretary. Kaler continued as editor and manager until the following year when he moved to Florida. The Daily Democrat, by now called The Greensburg Daily Times or The Evening Times, was the first to install modern printing machinery. Its linotype was the first to be used in the county, according to historians, although it is difficult today to fathom how the other dailies could get the job done by handsetting all type. Charles H. Ewing succeeded Kaler as editor and manager in Feb. 1911 and two years later stepped out in favor of Hamilton Mercer, a newsman who gained some fame in 1914 with his article on "The Reproach of Capital Punishment" in which he claimed it was administered out of a spirit of vengeance. And some 50 years later it became a hot issue again in the Indiana General Assembly.

The Evening Times published a weekly edition under the masthead of The Weekly Democrat.

There were now four daily newspapers and five weekly newspapers in Greensburg. The dailies in 1915 were: Caskey's Daily News, The Evening Times, The Greensburg Daily Review and The Daily Graphic - two Republican papers and two Democratic papers. The weeklies were: Mr. Braden's Standard and the weeklies published by the four daily papers.

The handwriting was on the wall and starvation is a strong inducement.

But this was a situation that prevailed over much of the nation. The wish to have opposition parties and segments of these parties represented had resulted in more newspapers than were necessary to serve communities in the purveying of either news or advertising and with the decline of partisan feeling as a dominant motive in journalism it became possible to reduce the number of papers.

The merger became the recognized technique for "cleaning up" ruinous competitive situations.

Mr. Braden, publisher of The Standard, joined with Edward A. Remy in 1915 in purchasing the Daily Greensburg Review. They discontinued the weekly published by the Review firm. The Daily Graphic, published by Rucher since 1902, tossed in the sponge. This reduced the field of dailies to three.

In this same year James Caskey, publisher of The Daily News, died.

The next transaction came Jan. 1, 1918 when Mr. Braden and Edward J. Hancock bought The News from Mr. Caskey's widow. Mr. Braden's daily, The Daily Review, was consolidated with The Daily News and The Standard retained as the weekly paper. About this same time the weekly New Era perished. Remy, one of the original owners of The Review, had retired.



The field had been cut to two dailies and two weeklies - The Daily News and its weekly Standard and The Daily Evening Times and its weekly, The Democrat.

Mercer had stepped out as editor of The Times in 1915 and Smiley Fowler became editor and manager for the next 10 years. William B. Porter published it for a short time but financial difficulties resulted in a series of sales and reorganizations culminating in the death of The Evening Times as a daily paper in 1928. Arrangements were made at that time to publish The Times as a weekly paper at the plant of The Greensburg Daily News. The last issue of The Greensburg Standard, which traced its history back to 1835, was published on Feb. 26, 1926. The last reorganization of the Greensburg Times Company was effective April 13, 1929 and the paper is still published by the plant of The Daily News and has a circulation of about 800. Smiley Fowler is president of The Times Company and the paper's editor. The Daily News has a circulation of about 6,000. These are the last entries in the history of newspapers in Greensburg that effected the number of papers and the one daily and one weekly status has continued for more than 35 years.

The present Greensburg News Publishing Company was incorporated July 1, 1923 and in August of that year The News moved to its present location on the square. The corporation is now headed by Mrs. Marie Dorchers, chairman of the board, and Walter B. Lowe, president and general manager.

Although it was intended to confine this history to the secular press, it should be mentioned that the Baptist Observer, a state organ of that denomination, was started by a minister at Burney in 1901 and had a large plant in Greensburg until 1910 when it moved to Seymour. The Evening Times, the daily published by the Porter corporation, took over the plant of the Baptist paper--presses and full equipment.

It should also be mentioned that one paper published here attained a circulation of about 80,000. This was "The Coming Nation," started in August, 1892 by J. A. Wayland, a native of Versailles. Wayland was a socialist of great ability and greater literary skill and his paper became known throughout the nation. Apparently the hand-operated press never stopped in order to turn out this number of copies although it is not known whether it was a weekly - or as seems more likely - a monthly publication.

And back there in 1915 when Greensburg had four dailies and five weeklies, there were weekly papers at St. Paul, Clarksburg and Westport.

The research for this history unearthed an editor's lament. I should like to share with you "Behold, the Editor," probably penned about the turn of the century by an unknown author.

A child is born to a merchant in town. The physician getteth 10 plunks. The editor writeth a stick and a half and telleth the multitude that the child tippeth the beam at nine pounds. Yeah, he lieth even as a centurion. And the proud father giveth him a cigar.



Behold, the young one groweth up and graduateth. And the editor putteth into his paper a swell notice. He telleth of her exceeding comeliness. Like unto the Roses of Sharon is she, and her gown is played up to beat the band.

And the dressmaker getteth two score and four iron men. And the editor getteth a note of thanks from the sweet girl graduate.

And the daughter goeth on a journey. And the editor throweth himself on the story of the farewell party. It runneth a column solid. And the fair one remembereth him from afar with a post card that costeth six for a jitney.

Behold, she returneth! And the youth of the town fall down and worship. She picketh one, and lo, she picketh a lemon. But the editor calleth him one of our promising young men and getteth away with it. And they send unto the editor a bid to the wedding. And behold, the bids are fashioned in a far city.

Flowery and long the wedding notice which the editor printeth. The minister getteth 10 bones. The groom standeth off the editor for a 12 months subscription.

All flesh is grass, and in time the wife is gathered unto the soil. The minister getteth his bit. The editor printeth a death notice, two columns of obituary, three lodge notices, a cubit of poetry, and a card of thanks.

And the editor forgetteth to read proof on the head, and the darn thing cometh out; "Gone to Her Last Roasting Place."

And all that are akin to the deceased jumpeth on the editor with exceedingly great jumps. And they pulleth out their ads and cancellet their subscriptions and they swing the hammer even unto the third and fourth generations.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMERICAN ALMANAC - At six o'clock in the morning of Friday, August 3, 1492, three tiny vessels dropped down the Rio Tinto from Palos, Spain, into the Gulf of Cadiz. They were the ship SANTA MARIA, and the caravels NINA and PINTA. Under command of Cristobal Colon (Christopher Columbus) were not quite a hundred men, including surly and unwilling sailors impressed from the docks of Palos, and a physician, historian, notary, metallurgist and an interpreter qualified to converse in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Arabic, Coptic and Armenian. Past the convent of La Rabida, which had sheltered him, Columbus steered his fleet out to sea, its course fixed on an unknown goal which was to be a New World.

\* \* \* \* \*



\* \* \* \* \*

\* YE EDITOR takes this opportunity to express his \*  
\* Best Wishes of the Season for his readers and par- \*  
\* ticularly for the out of town members. Many of the \*  
\* latter are known to him, although they are scat- \*  
\* tered from New York to California, and from the \*  
\* Gulf to the Great Lakes. All are natives of Deca- \*  
\* tur County or have close ties here, and it must \*  
\* be this tie that they wish to maintain - their \*  
\* only reason for their continued membership in the \*  
\* Society. If the BULLETIN in any way helps to fill \*  
\* the void caused by nostalgia in the lives of these \*  
\* transplanted Hoosiers, this correspondent is happy. \*  
\* Bless you! AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS! \*

\* \* \* \* \*

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



301 Mr. William E. Loucks  
131 W. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Indiana  
47240



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 35

Greensburg, Indiana

May 1, 1968

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Wilbur Troutman  
Mrs. Gene H. McCoy  
Mrs. Dorothy N. Lloyd - Holly-  
wood, Fla.  
J. Elmer Badgley  
James Spillman  
Mrs. Marjorie J. Aichele -  
Carlsbad, Calif. 578

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING - This was the annual dinner meeting with some sixty attending. Mr. Grant Henderson was again chosen to be our president for the coming year. The other members of his official family are noted elsewhere in this issue of the BULLETIN. The Beesleys from Cedar Grove, Indiana showed their slides of native wild flowers-hundreds of them. The photography was excellent and it was our privilege to see in an hour a collection that was years in the making. Close-ups of a few of our smaller native wild animals, such as the opossum and the raccoon in their native habitat were very interesting...The dinner meeting as always, was a most enjoyable affair.

\* \* \* \* \*

THE BOOK FAIR - An added bit to the dinner meeting, it was a lot of fun. About one-third of the books contributed, were sold and netted the Society twenty dollars. The books for the most part were discards but for others they were "finds" as evidenced by the interest shown by the browsers....Forrest McCardle was our star salesman. Those contributing books were Gladys Aldrich, Helen Bussell, Dorothy Dolcs, Smiley Fowler, Grant Henderson, Paul Huber, Forrest McCardle, Clara Miller, Charles Osburn, Martha Samuels, Peg Sheets-Peg's Antiques, Alpha Thackery, Marguerite Tillson and Margaret Wyant.

\* \* \* \* \*

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Saturday night, May 11, 1968 at 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Kemble Room, Methodist Church, North Broadway at North Street, Greensburg, Indiana

PROGRAM: Mr. James Scott of Richland, Indiana will speak on his favorite hobby - INDIAN LORE! A Hoosier and related in this county, Mr. Scott is presently teaching in Rush county. He served an enlistment in the army attaining the rank of captain. A close student of the red man, his tools and his habits, Mr. Scott has appeared before many groups in the past. It is understood that Mrs. Scott is equally interested in her husband's avocation.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

PLAN TO ATTEND!



## ST. MAURICE

The principle starting point of imigration into these parts of Oldenburg, Enochsburg and St. Maurice was Cincinnati. Down the Ohio River to Lawrenceburg and inland up to Harrison and Union Co. Ind and up the White Water River to Brookville.

The eastern part of Decatur County began to be settled about the year 1820 to 1830. German people came about 1838 to 1840.

A Mr. Woodward from Brookville entered or bought from the U.S. government 320 acres at \$1.25 per acre, in Decatur County along the Franklin County line, in the southeast corner of Fugit Township. Three Kerrick brothers bought 160 acres and settled about the year 1830. Joining the Kerricks was Benjamin Sloan and Squire Combs. Mr. Combs had a lot of knowledge of law and that is why he held the office of J.P. for so long. He lived to be 88 years old-died in 1903.

There was a settlement of early American Yankees who clustered around "Plug's Corner", one mile north of St. Maurice. They were genuine "Doolittles". Many of them would take anything and everything they ran across, especially if it belonged to the Dirty Dutch. "Sure the Dutch were awful people". An old well established custom demanded that when a man butchered a hog, he should hang the liver, heart and lungs of the animal on the gate post of his yard for an indefinite time. Instead of observing this custom these Dutch Foreigners cooked these things, ground them up and mixed a lot of salt and pepper and all kinds of spices and then ate this devilish mixture. They dished up the feet and ears and even used the intestines ad casings for sausage. Worse than that even, they used the blood of the animal to make their Blood-Pudding. In the spring they would manure the garden spot, plant and raise cabbage, then cut it up and put it in a stone jar and let it get "rotten-spoiled" and then eat it.

Mr. Seepe left all his tools out and had a visit from the Plug Corner people. He scared them off by saying--What he steals from me he steals from no one. --He was misunderstood to say "Who steals from me will never steal again". Then to clinch the thought he said "If anyone takes anything from me, I will become spell-bound and won't see or release him before sunrise and the devil will break his neck". It seems the Yankees were very superstitious.

Some of the hardships of the early settlers--First there was an almost incredible scarcity of money in the backwoods district. What-ever cash the woodsman had on hand when he first landed, was spent for land, farming implements and a few head of livestock and some household furniture such as cook stove, bedstead and maybe a few chairs. Other articles such as benches, tables and wardrobes and cupboards were mostly homemade of boards brought from a far off saw-mill or maybe even split from an oak tree and trimmed down with a draw knife and a jack plane. These were formed into very neat and substantial manner, to last for a generation or so.



For their agricultural products they had no convenient market. As late as 1853 the people made regular trips to Cincinnati with a load of pork, butter, eggs and lard, in order to procure money for taxes and other current expences. They would start on this journey to the city on Monday and return on Saturday night. That would give them two days going, two days to dispose of their goods and two days to return home, a distance of about 60 miles. These trips had to be made in the Spring of the year when the roads as far as Harrison Pike often became impassable. The worst place was the Hermisch Hill. In such places one revolution of the wagon wheels between stops was considered very satisfactory progress.

The first backwoods vehicles were sleds. Then some ingenious mind invented a contrivance consisting of axles with wheels made out of blocks of wood six inches thick and three or four feet in diameter, cut from some logs, and these were connected with a more primitive coupling pole. This invention went by the name of "Roll-Wagon". The wheels were iron bound and held in place by a wooden linch pin eight inches long and one inch thick. All the tallow or grease in the country could not prevent the axles from squealing. These could be heard for a mile or more.

Walnut and oak trees, 75 to 100 feet up to the first limbs, as straight as a ramrod, and 5 or 6 feet in diameter, had to be cleared away. Two or three years were required to burn these forest giants. Such splendid timber would have been gladly given away for hauling it off the ground, but there was no one to do it.

The next thing to do was to fence a little patch of corn or wheat to protect it from the hogs and cattle which roamed freely, all summer, straying away from home for miles. Only the milk cows were looked after and were kept in the habit of returning home at night, by petting and feeding them. The other livestock was marked with a legally recorded mark, usually a peculiar cut or hole in the ear of the animal. After that they were turned out about the first of May and weren't seen again or looked after until the close of Indian Summer. The German People looked after their hogs a little closer because they would run wild sooner than the cattle. In those days the forests were literally stocked with wild hogs, commonly called Razorbacks or Elm Peelers, from their habit of living on the bark of the slippery elm tree, when the supply of forest food was exhausted. Many frontiersmen, like those around Plug's Corner, never raised hogs but depended on their winter supply of pork, on hunting the Peelers, who were in fair condition by the end of November.

The first white man in the eastern part of Decatur County, in 1780, or probably in all southeastern Indiana, was a man by the name of Munsen. He married an Indian girl in 1780. Mrs. Michael Powers, a daughter of old Munsen, often spoke of her father's death. She was just five years old when a band of roving Indians came up Salt Creek and in passing by looted old Munsen's cabin. The Indian wife with her three little half breeds saved herself by hiding in a hollow log. Later they found the old hunter and his son, both scalped and dead. Mrs. Powers had acquired much of her mother's medical knowledge. She



cured one of Gerhard Wansthath's girls (Mrs. Anthong Wisker) who had a broken arm so badly inflamed that the doctor thought amputation was necessary to save her life.

The original name of St. Maurice was Concord, settled before 1845 by English and German Methodists. At Concord, Anthony Scharles had set aside a little lot on which the Methodist brethren had built a log hut, as early as 1842, to serve as a school and a meeting place. A preacher by the name of Kiesting, of the Laughery district of Riply County, attended the Methodist Church at Concord from 1846 to 1850. John Gommel was the last of the Methodist preachers at Concord from 1860 to 1870.

The few Catholic families in the vicinity regarded St John's of Enechsburg as their parish church.

In 1857, the Brothers of Christian Doctrine from Verilize, France under the direction of Brother John Mary Weidmann purchased 40 acres of ground here and began to establish a Catholic College, renaming the town - St. Maurice, in honor of Bishop St. Palais of Vincennes. Brother John Mary platted the town. During the following year the Brothers were engaged in constructing a Church, School and Novitiate. The bricks which were used in the construction were made on the church ground.

While the college was flourishing, Catholic families began to settle in the neighborhood. It was, however, the death of Brother John Mary in 1862, which caused the St. Maurice Institute to become only an episode in history. Deprived of his enthusiastic leadership, hampered by the Civil War and burdened with debt, the remaining Brothers became discouraged. The college was closed in 1863 and the Brothers were recalled to France. To pay the debt, the Superior sold the property. The few Catholic families purchased one structure in 1865 or 1866, which they intended to use for their own church. For some years St. Maurice was again a mission of Enechsburg.

There were no state free schools in Indiana until after the adoption of the new state constitution in 1850. Before this time subscription schools were taught. Whenever a sufficient number of children could be gathered to make up the teachers salary of about \$10.00 to \$12.00 a month for a term of 3 to 4 winter months. Each child paid from \$2.00 to \$2.50 a term. After the Brothers era there were two schools in St. Maurice--one Subscription school and one Catholic school--right across the street from each other.

In 1881, during Father Charles Schoeppner's administration a new brick church was built. It was thru the parishioners contributing their labor as well as their funds to a splendid achievement. The timbers for the church were taken from their woods, hauled to the mill, planed and prepared for use. Stone was quarried from a creek near by, while the bricks were fashioned and baked on the church grounds. (Cost of brick at that time was about \$700.00 for 170,000). The building was quickly finished, for the cornerstone was laid on October 20, 1881 and the dedication was celebrated on September 24,



1882. It was during Father Hunt's time that the brick rectory was built in 1886. In fact, there are six brick building in St. Maurice now, of which the bricks were fashioned and baked right there. The present store building was built in 1866 and after the fire in 1939, three of the original walls were saved and are in good shape yet.

St. Maurice at one time could boast of having 2 shoe shops, 2 wagon and blacksmith shops, a shingle shop, a saddle shop, a quart (wiskey) shop, 1 or 2 saloons, 3 stores, 1 taylor shop and a post-office. In 1857 a Doctor Richards located in St. Maurice and stayed for 10 to 12 years.

We now have a saw mill, which up until a few years ago still used a steem engine for sawing. It is now being rebuilt to being a very modern-all electric mill. We have a good sized feed mill and a general store where one can buy most anything.

Some of the earliest settler's names were Christopher and Zeke Theising, Berkemeier, Wolter, Altenau, Minning, Mauer, Weisback, Moser, Moorman, Grene, Strigler, Hopster, Kessing, Fernadine, Kramer, Springmeier and Schmalier.

Much of this information was taken from a manuscript kept in the Henry Schwegman family, and some of the natives have also contributed from memory.

Compiled by Emma Wallpe  
in 1965

ed-Thank you, Mrs. Wallpe, for this fine contribution!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1968

President.....	Grant Henderson
1st Vice-Pres.....	W. F. McCardle
2nd Vice-Pres.....	Mrs. Dan Baldwin
Corresponding Secy.....	Mrs. Van Batterton 525 N. Broadway Greensburg, Indiana
Recording Secy.....	Miss Helen K. Bussell 711 N. East Street Greensburg, Indian
Treasurer.....	Miss Alpha Thackery RFD 6 Greensburg, Indiana



WINTERSVILLE

(Smith's Crossing)

A post village of Decatur Count, in Salt Creek township, situated on the Muscatatuck River, and on the Indianapolis & Cincinnati railway, 7 miles east from Greensburg, and about 55 miles south-east from Indianapolis.

It contains one church, three stores, two saw mills, one steam grist mill, one hotel. Population 75. Post office established in 1854.

E. R. LITTELL, Postmaster

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PROFESSIONS, TRADES, ETC.

Anderson Daniel, resident farmer.  
Bailey T., saw mill proprietor.  
Byran John, broom maker.  
Christinia C., stoves, tin and sheet iron ware.  
Dilks J., boot and shoe maker.  
Dilks L., Cooper.  
Duncan M., resident farmer.  
Glass James, resident farmer.  
Littell James C., General merchant.  
McDonnell James, resident farmer.  
Maple Benjamin, resident farmer.  
Mitchell Wm., boot and shoe maker.  
Morrell Dr. L., dentist.  
Morrell Lewis, school teacher.  
Patterson Rev. Elias, United Brethren pastor.  
Smith John, dealer in stoves, tin and sheet iron ware.  
Smith Thomas, hotel proprietor.  
Stevenson John, dealer in groceries.  
Ward S., grist and saw mill proprietor.  
Wells James, carriage and wagon maker..

ed-This was Smith's Crossing 1860-61

\* \* \* \* \*

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE--Several years ago I wrote a historical sketch of the medical doctor situation in Decatur County at the "turn of the century," disclosing the fact that at that time the county had fifty-one medicos in practice, whereas today there are but nine. This situation might become embarrassing in case somebody got sick.

There was a demand--rather, I should say, a dare--that I produce more information on this subject. But I clammed up, for the very good reason that I didn't know any more about it.

Of course I might have confessed some first-hand acquaintance with calomel, iodine, ipecac, epsom salt, asafoetida, peach-leaf tea and a select line of herbs. The tastes lingered for years.



In the meantime I have observed, though quite superficially, the changes in terminology of diseases as well as drugs. There, for example, was the pioneer scourge of "ager." (Long "a" and hard "g" as in goat.) It got knocked into malaria and various viruses before it was conquered. Locked bowel became appendicitis, and lagrippe settled for influenza. The vacuum sweeper just about abolished house-maid's knec. Actually I don't know any more about nerves and common cold than the doctors do.

As for radium, sulfa and the biotic concoctions, they ushered in a new era, something like the Pleistocene Age.

What ails you now is, most certainly, a virus or an allergy, maybe both. There are many varieties of both.

Ragweed allergy is one of the most unpopular, although it has its defenders. It put Upper Michigan on the map and taught a great many persons how to pronounce Saulte St. Marie. In Wisconsin it vivalled cheese-making as big business.

Sinus symptoms are standardized, with numerous inconsequential variations. The weather may seem too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry. With just one or two small viruses you toss around in bed till 3 a.m. and when Morpheus (Or aspirin) takes over for a brief respite, than the danged alarm clock lets loose. You rouse up with some degree of discomfort all the way from scalp to toenail and a realization that inflation is going to ruin the country. There are at least as many types of viruses as there are Democrats in Vermont, maybe more.

Allergies are still more numerous and can keep medicare computers quite active.

Lumbago became declassified several years ago, giving way to the more euphonious sacroiliac maladjustment, which, with the slipped disc, proved to be the best thing that has happened to chiropractors in a long time. The disc that gets yanked out of line with the other vertebra buttons is not to be confused with L. P. disc, which is much more popular.

One treatment recommended for recalcitrant discs is the oak plank (or similar native hardwoods). When you have reclined for a couple of weeks on a bed of this type and the disc gets lined up, any other miseries don't amount to much.

If bed-boards were the only remedies available, there wouldn't be very many hypochondriacs.



Peoria, Illinois  
December 13, 1967

Dear Editor:-

Sorry that I cannot attend your 9th annual meeting of the Historical Society of Decatur County next Friday.

I read with interest the December issue of the BULLETIN. Enjoyed the article on Early Newspapers by H. G. Stuhrenberg.

I look forward to receiving and reading the articles that appear in the Historical Society publication. I wish you and the Society continued growth, and of course -

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

(signed) Gerald Kelsch

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



21 Mr. William W. Parker  
R. R. #5  
Greensburg, Indiana  
47240



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 36

Greensburg, Indiana

July 6, 1968

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Mr. Tom Carroll 579

\* \* \* \* \*

IT'S THOSE STARS AGAIN-The officers of the Society are concerned, because there are too many members delinquent in paying their 1968 dues. If a star occurs on the label of your copy of the BULLETIN, you are in arrears-which according to Webster means:

behind; backward; behindhand;  
in debt.

WHO WANTS TO BE IN DEBT!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1968

President.....Grant Henderson  
1st V. P.....W. F. McCardle  
2nd V. P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec. Secy..Miss Helen K. Bussell  
711 N. East St.  
Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer....Miss Alpha Thackery

\* \* \* \* \*

OCCASION: Summer Meeting

DATE: Saturday night, July 20,  
1968 at 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Drive-In-Bank  
Union Bank & Trust Co.  
W. Washington Street  
Greensburg, Indiana

PROGRAM: Our speaker for the evening is to be Mrs. Dan (Jane) Baldwin, a member of the Society and currently our second vice-president.

A graduate of Butler University with a major in history and home economics, Jane finds time, aside from her family and serving as Home Service Advisor for the Decatur County R.E.M.C., to be working on her masters degree in education. It is interesting to note that in 1959 she spent six months in Ecuador as an International Farm Youth Exchangee... She will present a paper on "A HISTORY OF THE NEGRO IN DECATUR COUNTY." This is a facet of our local history not fully explored, and we feel that any subject that Jane chooses to discuss, will be worth while.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING - Mr. James Scott, a teacher from Richland, Indiana, spoke on his favorite subject - THE AMERICAN INDIAN. As we learned, if it rained, Mr. & Mrs. Scott took to the fields in their never ending search for the rarest of Indian artifacts. Their display was only a part of their collection. A close student of his subject, Mr. Scott related the uses that the Indian made of the various tools and weapons. He also enumerated the following as gifts of the Indian to the white man -

Cotton-potatoes-beans-tomatoes-corn-tobacco-rubber

And what did the white man give the Indian?

Cancer-insanity-small pox-tuberculosis-whiskey-beads!!



This writer questioning the one item of "rubber", Mr. Scott had this to say - "When Columbus sighted land, it was an island off Central America. The rubber tree grows in this area. His men were amazed to see children playing with "gobs" of latex. He took some to Spain and it was the fashion in the Court, to bounce the "gobs" of latex as we bounce a rubber ball.....Goodrich (Goodyear?) learned to vulcanize rubber and this greatly increased its value to man."

Mr. Scott humerously closed his discussion with a display of artifacts likely to be found in the year 4000. They were -

A coke-bottle-door knob-false teeth-spark plug-electric insulator-whiskey bottle-clay marble-jug handle!!!!

Thank you Mr. Scott for your contribution to another fine evening for the members of the Decatur County Historical Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### AS AN ARCHITECT SAW IT -

The DECATUR COUNTY COURTHOUSE at Greensburg, 1854-1860, by Edwin May is one of the most unique of all the Indiana County Courthouses and certainly one of the most widely known county courthouses in the United States.

The original or first Decatur County Courthouse, completed in 1827, was a modest 40 by 40 feet two-story brick building terminated by a cupola. By 1854 the building proved inadequate; it was condemned and torn down to make way for the present structure.

Edwin May was employed by the Decatur County Commissioners to design the present structure. He was then only twenty-nine years old, but he had already designed courthouses in Sullivan and Shelby counties. He later designed at least four additional Hoosier County Courthouses and the present State Capitol Building, although he died almost a decade prior to its completion.

Edwin May (1824-1880), George W. Bunting (1829-1901), and Isaac Hodgson (1826-?) were architects of the generation of the 1920's. The triumvirate had offices in Indianapolis, and all made a significant contribution to the architectural heritage of Indiana.

Mr. May, born in Boston in 1824, journeyed ca. 1838 to Madison, Indiana, a city even then with a large number of finely proportioned and well-detailed Georgian, Federal, and Classical Revival public buildings and residences. Madison was to Indiana in the nineteenth century what Columbus is in the twentieth century - an architectural oasis. Although his stay in Madison was relatively short, the architecture of the community made an indelible impression on Mr. May.

In 1842 Edwin May went to Indianapolis where he worked as a carpenter and builder for eight years. Although he had no formal architectural training, he must have had a keen mind and considerable knowledge of financing, for he operated a loan office that might well have assisted him in remaining financially solvent as an architect and builder. The



operation of a loan office is a most unique and imaginative enterprise for an architect, and I know of no precedent.

Although the present Decatur County Courthouse was started in 1854, it was not completed until 1860. It is an interesting and curious solution, asymmetrical in plan and picturesque and rambling in silhouette, but suggestive of the Gothic idiom. Conversely, the semicircular arches are more indicative of Romanesque expressions, but the Richardsonian idiom was not prevalent until much later (1870 and after). Thus, it is possible that Edwin May was familiar with the then current work of James Renwick and his solution for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington (1847-1855).

In 1903 the exterior brickwork was stuccoed to emulate a more permanent material, stone.

The courthouse has been eulogized on numerous occasions for various reasons. While on a speaking tour in 1908, William Jennings Bryan stated that Decatur County's Courthouse was the finest specimen of Gothic architecture that he had seen in his travels throughout the world.

William Allen White, the eminent Kansas journalist known as the Sage of Emporia, used the tree of the Decatur County Courthouse as the subject for one of his editorials. He expressed curiosity as to the "secret of the grove of trees on the high tower between stones where as on the plains of Kansas one was fortunate to grow a single tree on the ground." White's comments were printed in many papers throughout the country and he even visited the site several years later while on a trip to the East.

The local chamber of commerce refers to the tree as the "Eighth Wonder of the World." Some have accused the chamber of commerce of "planting" the tree which caused a local wit to say, "and it's watered by the springs of the clock." Indeed, the fire department has watered the trees during severe periods of drought. It is uncertain how the tree got to the apex of the 115 foot high tower or when the tree was first seen; possibly a bird or even the wind carried a seed to the tower. Various dates have been given for the sighting of the first tree, ranging from ca. 1865 to 1870.

The present tree is the twelfth in the series of large-tooth aspen which have brought considerable publicity to the Decatur County Courthouse, but the trees seem to have clouded the architectural significance of the building.

-INDIANA  
COUNTY COURTHOUSES  
of the  
NINETEENTH CENTURY

David R. Hermansen  
Associate Professor of Architecture  
Ball State University  
Muncie, Indiana



GREENSBURG

A prominent post town and the capital of Decatur county, situated on the Indianapolis and Cincinnati railway, 46 miles south-east from Indianapolis.

It was laid out in 1822, and occupies an elevated and delightful situation. It contains a magnificent courthouse, costing upwards of \$100,000, and several neat and commodious churches, a large union school, and several select schools, two weekly newspapers, and numerous mercantile and manufacturing establishments. Population about 3,000.

W. H. VanHorn, Postmaster

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Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Alexander J. H., manufacturer and dealer in boots and shoes.  
Armington Wm., physician.  
Armington & Blair, propr's of the DECATUR DEMOCRAT  
Barnes T., gunsmith.  
Batterton & Hazelrig, dealers in drugs, groceries, books, notions etc.  
BELMONT JAMES, DEALER IN DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, QUEENSWARE, MEDICINES,  
BOOTS, AND SHOES, ETC.  
Belmont J. B., dry goods and groceries.  
Bonner S. A., attorney and counselor at law.  
Brockman & Smith, oyster and eating saloon.  
BROWN B. J., BOOT AND SHOE SHOP.  
Bryan Charles, freight and ticket agent.  
Bryan J. T., dealer in iron, hardware, cutlery, etc.  
Bryan Mrs. M., millinery and fancy goods.  
Bryan S., justice of peace.  
Bryan S. M., telegraph operator and express agent.  
Chambers J. & Co., dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc.  
Clarke John, mason and builder.  
CONES ROBERT, COUNTY TREASURER.  
CRAIG JOHN, ELECTRIC PHYSICIAN.  
Culbertson J. W., oculist and surgeon.  
CUMBACK WILL, ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW.  
DE ARMOND J. O., DEALER IN STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS, ETC.  
De Armond T. & J., steam flouring mill, near the railroad depot.  
DECATUR DEMOCRAT; Armington & Blair, publishers.  
DECATUR REPUBLICAN, RHIVER & HAZELRIGG, EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.  
Dugan Alexander, county coroner.  
DYER ANDREW, LIVERY STABLE.  
Dyer J., livery stable.  
EDKINS THOMAS, BOOT, SHOE AND LEATHER STORE.  
English J. H., coffee house.  
Ewing Cortex, attorney at law and notary public  
FALCONBURG M. G., ELECTRIC PHYSICIAN.  
Forsyth A. R., prop'r Greensburg Bank.  
French L. W., surgeon dentist.  
Gageby & Siling, furniture dealers.  
GAVIN & HORD, ATTORNEYS AT LAW.



Gibbs John, barber and hair dresser.  
Gillespie J. N., grocer and produce dealer.  
Goodwin Moses, grocery and druggist.  
Gormen & McCoy, broom factory.  
Green E., chair factory.  
Greensburg Bank, A. R. Forsyth, prop'r.  
Hann J. & Brother, grocery store.  
Harney B. H., merchant tailor.  
Hazen J. T. & Co., shoeing shop.  
Hendricks & McHargh, druggists.  
Henry B. F., saddle, harness and collar maker.  
Hittle J. P., staple and fancy dry goods, west side Public Square.  
Hitts J. Z., resident physician.  
HOOD & MORRIS, SURGEON DENTISTS.  
Howard J. F. & J. A., dealers in hardware and iron.  
Israel John, justice of peace.  
ISRAEL MARTIN, GROCERY AND PRODUCE DEALER.  
Jocelyn Edward A., county sheriff.  
Jocelyn & English, prop'rs livery stable.  
Kirby J. M., house and sign painter.  
Knapp Mrs. H. C., millinery and fancy goods.  
Lathrop E. & L. P., dealers in fancy and staple dry goods.  
Leonard John, boarding house.  
Long John, prop'r Ballard House.  
Lovett David, dealer in dry goods, groceries, Ac.  
Luther Robert, watch and clock dealer.  
McGuire John H., carriage factory.  
Mackey J., manufacturer saddles and harness.  
Metzger & Howard, meat store.  
Mentague David, county surveyor.  
Moody J. W., alapathic physician.  
MOSS DAN., PROP'R MOSS HOUSE, SOUTH-EAST CORNER PUBLIC SQUARE.  
MOSS HOUSE, DANL. MOSS, PROP'R, SOUTH-EAST CORNER PUBLIC SQUARE.  
Nesbitt Jas., grocery and provision store.  
Paramore Calvin H., staple and fancy dry goods.  
Patten J. M., shoeing shop.  
PHARES & VANCAMP, DEALERS IN HARDWARE, IRON AND STOVES.  
Phillips Richard, merchant tailor.  
Pool A. & J., dealers in Italian and American marble, monuments, tombstones, &c. &c.  
POOL A. & SONS, dealers in Italian and American marble, monuments, tombstones.  
Quinn James, carriage factory.  
Reddington Daniel, oyster and eating saloon.  
REED W. H., COUNTY AUDITOR.  
RHIVER & HAZELRIGG, EDITORS AND PROP'RS DECATUR REPUBLICAN.  
Ricketts D. H., billiard saloon.  
Ridener, J. R., daguerrean artist.  
Robbins John E., prop'r Decatur Mills.  
Robbins Richard, attorney at law and ag't Aetna Ins. Co.  
Robertson N., boot and shoe maker.  
Rodgers John, prop'r Greensburg House.  
Ross & Zoller, pork packers and meat store.  
Rozell G. B., attorney at law.  
St John & Conner, wagon and plow factory.



SCOBIE JOHN S., ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
Seitz Christian, baker and dealer in all kinds of groceries.  
Shane C., attorney at law.  
Shaw & Conner, carriage factory.  
Sherwood Anson, cooper.  
Sisco & Udailey, boot and shoe shop.  
Sparks Amos, grocery store.  
Stevens J. F., staple and fancy dry goods.  
Stewart D. & J., druggists.  
Stockman H. C. agent for buying and selling wheat.  
Stout H., dealer in stoves and tin ware, south side Public Square.  
Swem E. B., physician.  
TALBOTT RICH. C., CLERK DECATUR CIRCUIT AND COMMON PLEAS COURTS.  
Trisher F. M., watch maker and jeweler.  
Tucker J. L., dealer in hats and caps.  
Unkel Wm., baker and confectioner.  
Van Horn W. H., postmaster.  
Warriner Franklin, saddle and harness factory.  
Warriner J. J., merchant tailor.  
Warthing Edward, groceries and liquors.  
Weeks J. H., blacksmith.  
Weymar J., boot and shoe shop.  
WHEELDON N., PHYSICIAN.  
WHITE EDWIN, COUNTY RECORDER.  
Wicks P., attorney at law.  
Wilson S. W., attorney and notary public.  
Woodfill G. & Sons, staple and fancy dry goods.  
Zerger George, wheat agent for Lewis and Bichellberger.

-INDIANA STATE GAZETTEER  
1860-61

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MEMBERSHIP-Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 38

Greensburg, Indiana

October 26, 1968

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Margaret Quantz  
Mr. Milford Afterkirk  
Mr. Paul Zinser  
Mrs. Miles Baldwin 583

\* \* \* \* \*

COMMITTEES

Arrangements

Van Batterton  
Frank Marlin  
John Parker

Auditing

Mrs. Frank Clark  
Mrs. Worth Osting

Calling

Mrs. Da Batterton  
Mrs. Miriam Brown  
Mrs. Paul H. Huber  
Mrs. Frank LaBarbera  
Mrs. Willa Lemon  
Mrs. William Parker  
Mrs. Delton Shazer

Decorations

Mrs. V. T. Peek  
Miss Milicent Huber

Display

Paul H. Huber  
Charles A. Wall

Nominating

Mrs. Charles Osburn  
Mrs. Delton Shazer  
Miss Adeline Loper

OCCASION: Tenth Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election  
of Officers.

SPEAKER: Mr. Frank A. White

DATE: Saturday, November 9th,  
1968 at 6:30 P.M.  
Greensburg Time (E.S.T.)

PLACE: Presbyterian Church  
N.E. corner Public  
Square, Greensburg, Ind  
Entrance on Washington  
Street

So well known for his daily column  
THE HOOSIER DAY - running in some  
fifty papers throughout the state,  
our speaker hardly needs an intro-  
duction to a Decatur County audi-  
ence. He is a part of our daily  
lives! As evidence of the respect  
that his associates have for him  
and his ability, we have a story.  
Mr. White yearning for a vacation,  
his fellow newsmen, former newsmer  
and an ex-governor presented him  
with twenty-four "guest columns"  
so that he could take four weeks  
off from the daily grind of a  
column-a-day, six days a week....  
To hear a man with this capacity,  
will be a treat indeed!!

\* \* \* \* \*

RESERVATIONS

If you have not already been con-  
tacted, please call Mrs. Frank  
Marlin (663-3622) by Tuesday,  
November 5th, if you plan to atter  
the dinner. Tickets are \$1.75  
each, payable at the door.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!



DISPLAY-This year being the fiftieth anniversary (1918-1968) of WORLD WAR I, the display will be devoted to that conflict which ended with the ARMISTICE of 1918. Members willing to loan their relics and other memorabilia, will please call a member of the display committee, on or before Saturday morning November 9th, when the items will be collected.

\* \* \* \* \*

KINGSTON

A post village of Decatur county, in Fugit township, situated on Sand Creek, 6 miles north-east from Greensburg, and 55 miles south-east from Indianapolis.

In the vicinity are two or three churches, one general store, one hotel, one steam flouring mill, and various trades and professions. Population 100. Township 2,000. Post office established in 1835.

HENRY ALBERT, Postmaster.

Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Brown G.W., justice of peace.  
Danold S.A., prop'r brick yard.  
Gilmer J., sewing machine agent.  
Gray B.F., school teacher and sewing machine agent.  
Hamilton Thos., resident farmer.  
Hopkins P.E., resident farmer.  
Jackson A.C., blacksmith.  
Moore W., wagon maker.  
Robins J.J., carpenter and fanning mill manufacturer.  
Robinson J.B., resident farmer.  
Stewart S.R., prop'r hotel and lumber yard.  
STEWART & ALBERT, GENERAL MERCHANTS.  
Wyly John, dentist.

-Indiana State Gazetteer 1860-61

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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1968

President.....Grant Henderson  
First Vice-President.....W. F. McCardle  
Second Vice-President.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
Corresponding Secretary.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 North Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Recording Secretary.....Miss Helen K. Bussell  
711 North East Street  
Greensburg, Indiana  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery



MILFORD ABOUT 1895

In writing this, as I remember the old home town, when we moved there in 1895, I will try to give a description of the town and who lived there at the time....Starting at the northwest corner is the Doctor's office occupied by Dr. George S. Crawford. Next door east was his home where he lived with his mother. Here I will state that Dr. Crawford was the owner of the first auto in the town, purchased about 1903. The machine was a one cylinder Cadillac. It's usefulness was doubled by the entire community....Next house east was occupied by Solon Harrel and his wife Mollie, formerly Mollie Rodman. On this lot was drilled the first natural gas well in the town and it furnished gas to light the streets and fuel for cooking and heating. The well was drilled by the Harrel Brothers, consisting of Solon and Frank....At the next house lived a Mr. and Mrs. Watson, who moved in a year or so to Nashville, Brown County, Indiana....Then we go to the next house where we find William T. Brinker living. Mr. Brinker was one of the village blacksmiths and made a living repairing farm implements and shoeing horses for the farmers living in the neighborhood. He was married about this time to a widow Jones, who brought her son Charles and lived at this home for many years....Across the street, but facing the street south, we find Andrew Moore, a Civil War Veteran, living with his wife, Jennie, formerly Jennie Reeves, with their two children, Otis and Leah. Leah later married Mose Lenegar....Going east on this same street, we pass the place where once stood the Old Campbellite Church and the lot was still known by that name....At the next house lived Ira Keen and his wife, Allie, formerly Allie Kennedy, and their two daughters, Mary, later Mary Wood and Edith, later Edith Byard....Here we will open a gate which admits us to the Powner Fruit Farm on which is cultivated berries to supply the market for quite a distance. This farm is operated by Jake Huff, wife, and son, John and daughter, Myrtle. This enterprise furnished work for the kids and a few grown ups during the picking season. The wage paid was one cent a quart and a good picker could earn as much as sixty cents a day. However they experienced no difficulty in getting all the help necessary....On leaving here we go back to the west end of the next street south of the one just described, which is at Clifty, a small creek, which runs across the entire northwest side of the town....At this point we find the home of William Tatman and family. His wife passed away about this time, leaving Mr. Tatman and the family of girls, two being married and living with him, namely Jessie Bullard and husband James, and Ella Whitson and husband Charles. Also Bessie, Pearl, Mary and Fannie. Mr. Tatman was a civil war veteran and was also caretaker of the Milford Cemetery and specialized in doing odd jobs for the community....At the next house lived another war veteran, William Marsh, who was an invalid, his wife and son, Henry. His wife's name was Nancy. And I might state that their lives were made miserable by the constant teasing by the thoughtless youth, who persisted in annoying them with tic-tacs and other devices....Across the street we find the home of Ruth Ford, formerly Ruth Rodman....Next, just east we find the home of Eliza Tooley, which is just being completed and his wife Fannie, formerly Fannie Rodman and children, a daughter, Mabel and three sons, Donald, Stanley and Horace. They started the new home. At this time Mr. Tooley was a stone mason and with his father-in-law and brother-in-law, John and Joe Rodman, respectively, operated a lime kiln just west of



the town....On the north side of the street we find the widow Harrel, living with her son, Frank and daughter, Pearl....Here we come to the town's Hotel, operated by Mrs. N. A. Pardun. Mr. Pardun at this time was a traveling salesman. Mrs. Pardun's place was known for it's good eats and hospitality. With her as a boarder, lived Nelson Mowery, a very wealthy bachelor, who owned many farms and much real estate throughout the neighboring country. Mr. Mowery was later married and divided his fortune among his relatives and donated much to charity. Among those was the Y.M.C.A. at Greensburg....At the next house lived A. G. Dorsey, his wife Fannie, formerly Fannie Christian, their daughter, Lizzie, and two sons, William and Elbert. This being my father, I will state here that he started a small store in what was known as the William Phillips store building, but was destroyed by a fire a short time later. He was the first one to start a subscription to have a town well drilled in the town and also helped to get gas lights erected on the street corners. In this house also lived for a short time Mel Miner and his wife, Fannie formerly Fannie Smith....On the south side of the street but facing the north and south street, lived Robert Miers and his wife, Ella and two daughters. Freda Simmons, later Freda Logan and Lela Simmons, later Lela Minor. A son, Ed, was born near this time at this house....Across the street on the east corner, in what was known as the Reeves property lived William Stark and his wife, Monta, who was one of the teachers in the public schools. ...Back to the north on the west side of the street which runs north and south, was a one roomed brick house in which lived William Johnson, with his mother, Rebecca, who was and had been for many years an invalid....On the northeast corner stood a small store operated by Rankin Wiley, who with his wife, Mary, formerly Mary Ward, lived in the next house east of the store....In the next house across the street lived William Ford and wife and their daughters, Ora, Nettie and Maud. ...Next to them on the same side of the street at this time, lived Aunt Polly Colley, a widow of a civil war veteran....On the north side of the street at this point lived Uncle Robert Kennedy and his wife, whose maiden name was Updike, and his two sons, Sherman and wife and three children, Allie, Horace and Herbert. Ed and his daughters, Myrtle and Lillie, a daughter Minnie and granddaughter Carrie....Across the street on the southeast corner we find Uncle Hiram Baker, with his wife and her sister Hannah Proctor. And with all due respect to Mr. Baker he was the only man I ever saw who could bring his nose and chin together, a fete of which he often boasted....Farther east on the north east corner, we find the public school house which in it's time was one of the finest for miles around. The teachers here at the time were William Nelson and Monta Stark. Followed soon after by Alice Markland, Robert Miers, Mr. Kline, Oran E. Burton and R. Anderson. This school was discontinued as a town school and made a township high school about 1900....Next door east of the school house lived Uncle Jesse Stafford, a very religious and highly respected gentleman together with his wife Elizabeth....To the east on the hill just outside of the town lived Charles Young and wife and Alva Mount who the Youngs had raised....Going back to the west side of town, beginning at the bridge across Clifty on the only street or road leaving town to the west we will start back east at the first house and find Thomas Grant, who was a wagon maker, living with his wife, Lizzie and son, Guy and step-son Henry Critzer and his sister, Lena....At the next house east we find Uncle James Barnes (a civil war veteran and a good fiddler) living with



his wife, Mary and their two sons, Henry and Riley and daughter, India, who later married Frank Huff and Grace, the daughter of Henry who later married Shipley Given....On the next corner we find living Elihu P. Lane, who drove the mail hack and hauled the freight from Greensburg, this being the only means of transportation to and from town. With him lived his wife, Bell, formerly Bell Brown, their children, Della and Luna, Ganelle and one son Mack, named after the President, William McKinley....Across the street in what was known as the "Old Stone House," lived Arch Mercer and his wife Lizzie formerly Lizzie Christian and their family, Arthur, Dora, Fannie, Nevada, Richard, Harry and Mary....Just east and across the street we find the old Braden house, in which lived Emmett and his wife Carrie and their daughter Mary.... In the next house east lived another village blacksmith, Isaac Wright, his wife Ella, whose maiden name was Welch, their three sons and one daughter. The oldest son Elmer enlisted in the Army during the Spanish American War and died in the service. The other sons were Earl and Carl. The daughter Mabel later married Charles Jollif....At this point we find the blacksmith on the northwest corner and on the southwest corner was located the old skating rink, which was torn down and replaced by a dwelling. The work being done by William Applegate....On the southwest corner was a barber shop, operated by Ira Keen....On the northeast corner lived Mrs. Mary Anderson, a widow and her daughter Etta Braden, also a widow, who later married A.C. Bussel, a former business partner of her former husband....In the next house lived Mary Blades, a widow, with her son Elbert....East of her, living in the next house was John Miner, who operated a Threshing Machine and threshed the grain in the community. With him lived his wife Rebecca, formerly Rebecca Spillman, a son Albert, who was a great athlete and played professional baseball with the Nebraska Indians and Evansville Team. They also had a daughter Nellie who married Herschel Luther....Across the street from them lived Uncle David Yeley and his wife and grandson Roy Bryant. Uncle Dave owned a fine team of horses and did much hauling for the neighbors and did some farming....We now come to the town's only church. A two story structure which at one time was the finest in the locality. It was of the Methodist Denomination and was attended by the people for many miles around....On the southeast corner was located the town well and furnished an abundance of pure water which rivaled that which came from "The Old Oaken Bucket" and many people have stopped here to quench their thirst and cool off under the shade tree which stood near by....On the northeast corner was the old house in which lived Wm. Smith, his wife, Jane, and son Clyde....East of this on the north side of the street lived Mort Messenheimer, his wife, Maggie, and children Octa and Marry....Then we come to the home of Mrs. Miers who is a widow, who lived with her three sons Jake, John, and Charles....Next is the home of Mrs. Messenheimer, a widow living with her son Frank and daughter Nettie....Across the street is located a new house in which lived Wm. Weaver and his wife Ora....At this point the street makes a turn to the right, but on the left is a vacant lot on which the cows, which were allowed at this time, to run at large, find a good green pasture. This lot was later annexed to the cemetery. And I will say that I helped to move the first person to be buried here from the old part of the cemetery. This was Willie Bostic, son of Watson Bostic, he having died several years earlier. Now we find many graves of the ones of which I have written or will in the following description, located....Just south of the new cemetery was built this time a small house and Dr. Butler lived in it a short time and was



followed by Mrs. Francis Bostic, a widow with her son, James and daughter Tressie....Leaving this point we will go back to the west end of the next street, where we find at the cross of the streets on the northwest corner, a brick house, which was built by Wm. Phillips in which lives Hugh Caldwell, wife and son William....On the southeast corner was a general store owned by Mr. Grant, a union soldier in the civil war. Living with him was his wife, Indiana, whose maiden name was Mendenhall and their three sons, Culver, Orbie and Forest and a daughter, Bessie....On the southeast corner was a general store owned by Mr. Grant, over which was located the Masonic Lodge Hall. Also the Odd Fellows Hall and on the meeting nights the hitch racks were crowded with the buggies and rigs of members who attended....On the northeast corner lived Mrs. Mary Dillman, a widow, her two sons, Ed and William and daughter Nannie....East of the store and on the south side were three more business buildings. In the first was located a barber shop operated by George Barnes, the next one vacant and in the next a butcher shop, run by John Wilson, who lived in the next house east, with his wife Lula, formerly Lula Grant....Across the street on the north side of the street we find living George Barnes, his wife Anna, formerly Anna Miner, their sons Eldo and Harry and daughter Opal....Just across the street and farther is the home of Uncle John Pope and his wife Sis. Mr. Pope was a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War....At the southeast corner of the next street, west, we find the home of Harrison Brown, another Civil War Veteran, who lives there with his wife and two daughters, Clara, who later married William Kanouse, and Allie. Also a son Harry....On the northeast corner stood the only shoe shop in the town, operated by John Weaver, who was also a civil war veteran, who lived just east of the shoe shop with his wife and daughter Kate....Just across the street was built the new parsonage, only a year or so later occupied by Rev. Plumber and family as its first tenants....Just east of the parsonage lived the Stark family. Caleb, a war veteran and to my knowledge he claimed to have been one of the characters in the "Hoosier School Master." With him lived his daughter, Bertha, who later married Wm. Feaster; his sister, Hannah and another sister, a widow, Anna Moore and her daughter, Kittie....At the next house east lived Wm. Jackson and family, who lived here a short while then moved to their farm home east of town soon after and were followed by George Conk another soldier in the Union army during the civil war. With him lived his son, John, wife and daughter, Anna, who later married Otis Moore....Going to the west end of the next street south we find Uncle Wall Tooley and wife. Mr. Tooley was a veteran of both the Mexican and Civil Wars....Just west of this lived Uncle John Podman and wife with their two sons, Charles, who joined the army and served during the Spanish American War, and Joseph and daughter Gertrude, who married Henry Christian....At the next corner east on the northeast corner, lived Wm. Wiley and wife Maggie, formerly Maggie Brinker....Just east of this was the Methodist parsonage occupied by the Rev. Keys, his wife and several daughters....Across the street lived Mr. Melson and wife with their two sons Wm. and Frank. Mr. Melson and wife however soon sold his home to the Methodist Conference and moved to Newburn after which the old home was remodeled and occupied by Rev. Tansy and wife with their two daughters, Lena and Mabel....In the next house east of this lived Mrs. Fletcher, her son, Carl and daughter Zella, who later married Elmore Kanouse....East of this at the end of the street in the old Alexander Homestead lived



James Conk and wife Mamie, a son Ralph and daughter Alice, later Mrs. Frank Mitchell....Having finished this street we go to the west end of this street on the south side of our home town on the southeast corner, we find a new house being built by Wm. Christian on the site where the old McClury home has just been torn down. This home is soon occupied by Mr. Christian and his new bride and an adopted son, Emmert....Just east of this lived Elmer Allen who was the town's only plasterer. With him lived his wife and two sons, Estevan and Marion and one daughter, Florence....At the next house which is the last house inside of the town where lived Dora Christian, a widow of a Civil War Veteran. With her lived her two sons, Richard and Henry....Having given a full list of the people who lived in the town which is entirely from memory. I would like to say that havine known these people I feel that any one could not fail to have been a better person from associating with them and that I seldom, if ever, pass the Milford Cemetery without recalling many faces of which I have written in this brief history. I also feel that I would not be doing justice if I failed to mention the people who lived not more than a couple of miles from town. These people were well enough known that it will not be necessary to give the location of their homes....However, we will start with Uncle John Trimble and wife who were some of the oldest settlers of the neighborhood. With them lived their sons, Art and Fred....Then we find Any Young and his daughter Daisy. But their house was soon after Mr. Young's death, occupied by Richard Fowler and wife Mollie and sons Smiley and James, but when they moved into the town the farm was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Newman and several children and grandchildren. After Mr. Newman's death, Clell Barnes and his wife Jane and daughter, Leatha and son John, became the owners of this place....The family of O. B. Trimble lived just south. His wife Ida, formerly Ida Butler, and daughters, Claudia and Ethel, made up the entire family....East of this lived Nathan Wasson and wife and family, consisting of Monta, Stella, Mary Josie and son Shirley....North of them lived Charles Braden, his wife Dora, formerly Dora Butler....North of this lived L. O. Blackmore and wife, Fannie. East on the Greensburg pike lived Norman Cook and wife, their sons, George, Walter, and Harry. East of them lived John Muirs and wife. South of him lived his son Wm. Muirs, his wife Lydia and children Ray, Merle, Nellie, Oscar, Sherman and Gladys and Wayne.... Back north we find Ernest Forket and his wife living on the old Alley farm. On this farm is buried Mr. Alley and family in a lot surrounded by a stone wall which Mr. Alley built himself....West of this on the St. Paul road lived John Kanouse and wife and children, by name, William, Tilden, Orve, Ed and Kate and Elmore. At the crossroads north we find Hamlin Anderson and wife Ida. Mr. Anderson farmed and sold autos. West of this on the south side of the road lived Wm. Anderson, his wife, Emma, and daughters, Lena, Ethel and son Elbert....Going back toward Milford we find Mr. Carson and wife and son living just across the creek, north of town. From here we go just west of town to the home of Frank Butler with his son, Alonzo. Near this time Mr. Butler passed away and in this place came George Brooks and wife and children, Mona, May, Lessie, Flora and George....Just south and west lived George Wiley and wife, who soon sold their farm to Joe Mitchell and wife and son, Frank. Just west at the cross roads we find a new home being built by Jesse Luther and wife. With them lived their children, Lloyd and Ethel. Just west lived Sammie Barney and his mother....West of this lived Gus Wolvertin. About a mile south on the next road lived



William Marshall and his wife Edna, son, Ed and daughter, Ethel. They soon after sold out and moved to Milford and were followed by Scott Christ and wife and son, Raymond....Back east and north we find James Pumphrey and wife and two sons and Mrs. Pumphrey's father, Wm. Manlove. North of them lived Iva Lewis and wife and daughters. Across the creek we find Bert Saunders and wife Nan and a foster daughter, Nellie Howe, living. Then we find living near the old grist mill, the old miller, Robert Critzer and his wife....From here we will go to the home of John Young and wife, Minnie....This completes the list of people who lived in this vicinity, in or near 1895. Of all the people mentioned as near as I can say, Sherman Kennedy and Dora Braden are the only ones living in the same house as in 1895. While I cannot recall anyone who has achieved fame or anyone who has gone very far wrong, I am glad to have them all numbered as being or having been my friends....I feel that this description would not be complete without mentioning Cliff Springs a beauty spot which I have not seen the equal in all the places I have seen and that anyone will find it worth their while to pay it a visit.

I am,  
William A. Dorsey

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING - The Salt Creek township tour with some one hundred twenty-five members and guests attending is evidence in itself of its success. Meeting at New Point, the Rev. Charles Emmons of the Christian Church extended the welcome. Mr. Raymond Carr reminisced on the history of the community and the church. At his invitation residents and former residents added their bits. The fire of 1909 came in for its share of attention and the history of the church went back to 1870 when it was built. It developed that New Point was platted in 1859, with Rosburg its predecessor twenty-three years before....From there the motorcade made its way to Enochsburg which was named after Enoch Abraham who platted that town in 1836. Here the Rev. Ambrose Schneider of St. John's Catholic Church welcomed the group and spoke on the history of the community and the church. This lovely old structure, a symphony in stone, was built in 1858. By a circuitous route, the group then visited the two old Volk homes, also built of native limestone and the "covered bridge". It was noted that the bridge was not the Kennedy type but rather a lattice type of truss....WOODLARKLAND the home of our President and Mrs. Henderson, a veritable woodland retreat, was the final stop of the day where doughnuts and cider was served to round out the social hour. Cooperating was the weather man for a fine autumnal day. Mr. & Mrs. Dan Baldwin are to be commended for the arrangements as are the Hendersons for their hospitality. Members and guests from such far away places as Martinsville, Rushville and Pendelton were in attendance.

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MEMBERSHIP - You can still qualify as an EARLY BIRD by paying your 1969 membership fee at the dinner meeting. In so doing you save the Society the postage which is an item.... Suggestion - a dollar membership for an interested friend makes an excellent Christmas gift.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 39

Greensburg, Indiana

February 22, 1969

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Dysa Harding Thomas-Indpls  
Mrs. Lewis Alexander  
Mrs. W. F. McCardle  
Mrs. Kathryn Abrell  
Mrs. Dortha Wenning  
Mrs. Lorraine Spillman  
Mrs. Thomas Day  
Mrs. Dyar R. Reed  
Mrs. Erna Wolfe  
Walter S. Redington  
Mrs. Irene Redington  
Henry Idlewine-Ormand Beach, Fla.  
Rollin Phillips-Cinti, Ohio 596

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THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1969

President.....W.F.McCardle  
1st V.P.....Mrs.Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr.Secy.....Mrs.Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec.Secy.....Mrs.Dorothy D.Doles  
303 E. Central Ave  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon, March  
2, 1969 at 2:30 P.M.

PLACE: Auditorium  
New R.E.M.C. Bldg.  
S.R. 3 & 46 West  
Greensburg, Indiana

PROGRAM: By popular request, our  
own Jane Baldwin comes  
to us with her ARMCHAIR  
TOUR OF DECATUR COUNTY.  
Aside from serving as  
first vice-president of  
the Society, Mrs. Baldwin  
is the Home Service Advi-  
sor of the local R.E.M.C.  
and it is in this capac-  
ity that she will also  
conduct a tour of the  
new facility. Jane is  
inimitable in her style  
of presenting a subject  
and the two tours should  
appeal to every member.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

THE LAST MEETING - It was an all out affair, everyone appearing in their best to hear Frank A. White, a daily columnist in some one hundred newspapers speak on THE HOOSIER DAY. Frank Marlin, chairman of the dinner meeting and his committee, worked untiringly to make this the successful affair that it was. There were no empty seats. The food was fine, the table decorations and display were extremely well done, all in keeping with the theme, Armistice at the end of World War I, and everyone went away happy. President Henderson presided and at the conclusion of the festivities presented the gavel to the president-elect, Forrest McCardle who dismissed the group. This was a banner meeting - may we have more like it!!



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE MEN?

William J. Robinson 1853-1855  
John F. Stevens 1857-1859  
Richard Robbins 1861  
Joseph D. Fleak 1863  
Daniel R. VanBuskirk 1865  
Will Cumback 1867  
William J. Robinson 1869-1871  
George D. Sleeth 1873-1875  
William A. Moore 1877-1879 (?)  
William F. Reiley 1877-1879 (?)  
Francis M. Howard 1881-1887  
Samuel J. Carpenter 1889  
Cortez Ewing 1891  
Albert F. Wray 1893-1895  
Everett E. Stroup 1897  
Weldon Lambert 1899-1901  
Marshall E. Newhouse 1903-1905  
William E. Springer 1907-1909  
Emmanuel Trautman 1911-1913  
Ephraim A. Norman 1915  
Lem P. Dobyns 1917-1919  
Rowland H. Hill 1921  
Weldon Lambert 1923-1925  
Anderson Ketchum 1927-1933  
Hubert E. Wickens 1935-1937  
Davies Batterton 1939-1945  
Milford E. Annis 1947-1955  
John R. Rees 1957-1963 & 1967 (?)  
Robert W. Jones 1967 (?)

\* \* \* \* \*

SAINT PAUL

A thriving post village of Decatur County, in Adams township, situated on Flat Rock river, and on the Indianapolis and Cincinnati railway, 10 miles north-west from Greensburg, and 35 miles south-east from Indianapolis.

In the immediate vicinity are inexhaustible beds of superior limestone, for building and ornamental purposes, immense quantities of which are exported to Indianapolis, Cincinnati, and other points.

It is a place of recent and rapid growth, and contains four or five churches, six stores, two flouring mills, one saw mill, several benevolent institutions, &c. Population about 800. Township 1,700. Post office established in 1853.

R. J. PIERCE, Postmaster.



Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Avery A.J., railroad agent  
Avery & Carr, carpenters.  
BAILEY PETER, PROP'R PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL.  
BAXTER, JAMES, (firm of Baxter & Thomas) blacksmith.  
BAXTER & THOMAS, BLACKSMITHS AND MANUFACTURERS PATENT PLOWS.  
CUSTOM WORK DONE AT SHORT NOTICE.  
BRODERICK A.M., POSTMASTER AND DEALER IN NOTIONS AND CONFECTIONERY.  
Broker J.T., boot and shoe maker.  
Butler W.O., stone mason.  
Cadwell E.A., carpenter and builder.  
Cannul Samuel, boot and shoe maker.  
Chambers & Co., general store.  
Covenant Lodge, No. 163, I.O.O.F.  
Dorsey Jas., physician.  
DRUMMOND & BUELL, DRY GOODS, GROCERIES, ETC.  
Favors G.A., carpenter.  
Flat Rock Lodge, No. 218, Masonic.  
French J.R., saddle and harness maker.  
Gillespie F., chair maker.  
HAYMOND & CO., FURNITURE, STOVES AND TIN WARE.  
Hollis Geo., carpenter and cabinet maker.  
Jenkins B., druggist and express agent.  
Keller Jacob, Lutheran pastor.  
Madison E.W., attorney.  
Mitchel & Co., general store.  
Paul & Floyd, woolen factory and mills.  
Pierson & Co., wagon makers.  
PENNSYLVANIA HOTEL, P. BAILEY, PROP'R.  
Reed Jas., brick mason and plasterer.  
Ridlen & Son, provision store.  
Ryan J.F., provision store.  
Stotsenberg G.W., teacher and clergyman.  
THOMAS GEORGE, FIRM OF BAXTER & THOMAS, BLACKSMITH.  
Underwood A.S., physician and surgeon.  
Walker S., plasterer.  
Walker Thos., stone cutter.  
Wiley N., prop'r St. Paul House.  
Wooden George, steam flouring mill.

Indiana State Gazetteer 1860-61

\* \* \* \* \*

ASTERISKS - As before, should an asterisk appear on the address label of your copy of the BULLETIN it means only one thing - you are in arrears - you haven't paid your 1969 membership fee!!



DEAR CHARLEY

Abraham Lincoln was instrumental in moving the state capitol from Vandalia to Springfield, Illinois. The first state house in Springfield was a two-story affair. It was here that Lincoln maintained an office and received callers in the interim between his election in November 1860 and the time that he left for Washington on February 23, 1861. Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper in its issue of November 24, 1860 pictured Lincoln in this office, a part of the governors suite. Also pictured was a large chain draped across the corner of the room. A further part of the decor was a drinking water tank and cup resting on the window ledge with a clock on the wall. This two-story structure served as the state house until it was outgrown and another building erected which we now know as the State Capitol of Illinois. Sangamon County took possession of the old state house and in order to provide more room, raised the building eleven feet and added another ground floor. In time even the remodeled building outgrew its usefulness and it was abandoned as such in 1965. The state of Illinois, not one to forsake the memory of Abraham Lincoln, decided to restore the old state house as it was in Lincolns time. This meant again removing the lower story which they have done, although the restoration is not complete at this time. This building when finished will house the Illinois State Historical Society and Library. Underground will be an immense parking lot. Now for the second part of our story. George Seipp, a book binder from Minneapolis, Minnesota was called to Decatur County to repair some public records. A student of Lincoln himself, interested in maps and public documents, while here became a bosom friend of Charley Marlin (Frank Marlin to us but Charley Marlin to George Seipp). Later, George while employed at Petersburg, Illinois and the site of the Ann Rutledge grave, all in the Lincoln country, became interested or was contacted concerning the restoration of the old state house at Springfield. George Seipp knew where to go to find another chain as featured so long ago in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. So followed a series of Dear Charley letters and the upshot of it all, was that Charley Marlin "whittled" out of white poplar, a chain sixteen feet long, consisting of forty-five links and a hook. Illinois being the twenty-first link (admitted in 1818) and Indiana the nineteenth. There were forty-five states in existence or in the process of being admitted in 1860. Now for the final chapter which might be titled - CHARLEY MARLIN GOES TO SPRINGFIELD - with the chain that is. This was February 12th at their annual Lincoln Day dinner. The plates were fifteen dollars each and Governor Nelson Rockefeller was the featured speaker. Charley Marlin was an honored guest, photographed and all. So in the years to come, you Lincoln scholars, while visiting in the Lincoln country - if you will stop at the old state house in Springfield, you will see displayed as a part of Abraham Lincoln's erstwhile office, the chain so skilfully "whittled" by our good friend and member-Frank Marlin.



CALLED MEETING - At a meeting called February 9th, President McCardle named the following members to serve on various committees through 1969.

1. INCORPORATION

Raymond Rolfes  
Forrest McCardle

2. FINANCE

Frank Marlin  
Alpha Thackery  
Dale Parker

3. PROGRAMS

William Hunter  
Jane Baldwin  
Walter Lowe

4. BULLETIN

Paul Huber  
Jane Baldwin  
Martha Samuels  
Floy Batterton

5. MEMBERSHIP

Dorothy Doles  
Helen Osborn  
Vivian Batterton

6. MUSEUM

Frank Marlin  
Helen Marlin  
Dorothy Huber  
Charles Walls  
Charles Osborn  
Dorothy Townsend  
Grant Henderson  
Dorothy Shannon  
Delton Shazer



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 40

Greensburg, Indiana

August 20, 1969

NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!

Mrs. Edna Vickrey  
Mrs. Emma Tatem  
Shirley Barker  
Mrs. Helen Colestock  
William Hunter  
Mrs. George Burkert  
Mrs. Ruth Earhart  
Mrs. Lois Ricke  
Mrs. Ruby Rigor Henrick 605

OCCASION: Summer Meeting

DATE: Sunday Afternoon, Aug. 31  
at 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: The "OLD RAILWAY MUSEUM  
STATION", Westport, Ind.

PROGRAM: A member of the museum  
association will be on  
hand to tell us about the  
equipment and Westport's  
part in railroad history.

\* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING--Was held at the new R.E.M.C. building with our own good Jane Baldwin giving the program. Her slides of the old homes of the county, spiced with her narration about the home, its occupants and events that occurred there, was most interesting. A home economist, Jane too provided cookies and punch for the sixty some attending. To round out the afternoon, she conducted a tour of the new building - this in her capacity as Home Advisor for the local R.E.M.C..... Yes, the star of the show was Jane Baldwin - with an assist by her husband Dan, manning the lights and switches!

Half-rates have been set up for those who want to take a "Round Trip" ride.

Bring your cameras, the children and your guests for a lot of fun.

Returning from Westport we will stop at Parker's Pond for the usual social hour and refreshments. Those of you who have had the pleasure of visiting the Parkers are aware of their hospitality and the beauty and charm of their country home. The log cabin has been completed and there may even be ducks on the pond. You newcomers are in for a treat.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!



## CLARKSBURG

A post village of Decatur county, in Fugit township, situated 12 miles north-east of Greensburg, the capital of the county, and 54 miles south-east from Indianapolis.... In the vicinity are four Protestant churches, a fine brick school house, one Masonic lodge, one lodge I.O.O.F., two general stores, one steam flouring mill, one tannery, two hotels, and several trades and professions.

ISAAC SHUMM, Postmaster.

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### Alphabetical List of Professions, Trades, Etc.

Beagles A., township constable.  
Brown, G.W., justice of peace.  
Buch, R.H., general store  
Cain, C., physician and surgeon.  
Cain, Miss S.E., school teacher  
Cartmell, J.H., resident farmer.  
Coy, Wm., hotel proprietor.  
Curry, C., carpenter and builder.  
Dally Wm., painter  
Doylus, Wm.E., notary public.  
Donnell, L.A., resident farmer and township trustee.  
Donnell, T.L., resident farmer.  
Ewick, C., carpenter and builder.  
Ewick, J., carpenter and builder.  
Green, J.S., boot and shoe maker and hotel proprietor.  
Halsey, James, justice of peace and resident farmer.  
Hamilton, Wm. H., resident farmer.  
Humphrey, Wm., carriage and wagon maker and blacksmith.  
Jarard, A., general merchant.  
Johnson, T., physician and surgeon.  
Lewis, N., physician and surgeon  
Lightfoot, W., carpenter and builder.  
Lowe, J.G., school director.  
McClary, S., resident farmer.  
Miller, Jesse, school teacher.  
Parker, D. & R., carpenters and builders.  
Rincard, Joseph, resident farmer.  
Shilling, Geo., justice of peace.  
Shumm, Isaac, Clothing dealer and tailor.  
Smith, D.B., cabinet maker and furniture dealer.  
Thompson, J., carpenter and builder.  
Trimble, James, hide and leather dealer.  
Walters, Larkins, township constable.



## GATHERING GREENS IN SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA IN THE EARLY 1900'S

As the season of springtime comes along, it brings to my mind the "green gathering" expeditions I used to take as a small child with my grandmother Hickman (Mary Ann Moody).

If I visited grandmother on a sunny warm day in early or middle April, she more than likely would say to me, "Child, come with me, and we will gather a mess of greens." I loved it, for it was more than gathering greens--it was a story-telling time of grandmother's childhood--a time of statements of her philosophy of life--a time of learning about nature. I learned many things from my grandmother on these trips--things I have never forgotten. Some I understand much better now than I did then.

According to grandmother, many of the early settlers used various plants, shrubs, and trees for food and medicines. Grandmother, who never heard the words "vitamins", "calcium", or "iron", as they related to food and health, would say, "A good mess of spring greens is better than a tonic." She told me how her mother mixed sulfur and molasses and gave all her children a round of it in the spring for a "tonic". Grandmother said she hated it. The root of sassafras made a pleasant tasting red tea when steeped in boiling water and was used to "thin blood" after a long winter of no fresh fruits or vegetables--I still like it. Various mints and pennyroyal were dried and likewise made teas for various situations. Chicory root, dried and chopped, was a substitute for coffee--I find it sold in the south now for the same purpose. Slippery elm bark and spice wood were also used to make tea. Horehound was made into a syrup for coughs.

Armed with two sharp knives to dig the greens from the ground and to assist in cleaning them and a basket in which to carry the cleaned greens, we started out. We had a regular route for our trips--grandmother knew where to find what she wanted. Out through the "early potato patch", through the orchard, down the hill where the strawberries grew, to the little branch that trickled through the hollow, on to the "spring", then into the road, through the yard to the row of rhubarb along the garden fence and back to the kitchen with our cleaned greens. They were washed through several waters, then put in the large, black, iron pot, which had been simmering on the back of the stove with a ham bone in it.

The first greens we found were always from grandmother's "poke-weed". It grew by the fence in the "early potato patch". No one was allowed to touch that pokeweed but grandmother. It came up year after year. Grandmother knew just when the tender shoots



were ready for greens. The root is poisonous and some say the more mature growths of the stems are. In my green gathering, I skip "pokeweed".

We found on these trips dandelions--the older dandelions develop a bitter taste, so the younger the better--lamb's quarters, wild mustard, wild lettuce, peppergrass, occasionally chicory, and sheep sorrel. If grandmother found enough sheep sorrel, she would bake me a little pie of it. It tastes like rhubarb. Grandmother said it was one of the delights of spring, when she was a child, to have a sheep sorrel pie for their Sunday dinner. Sheep sorrel is fast disappearing now.

Along the branch and near the spring, we found curly dock or sour dock as it sometimes was called. It has a long narrow leaf, slightly curled along the edge. Red dock has a broad leaf, sometimes with a red vein through it. Grandmother said red dock could be used, although most people believed it to be poisonous. She recalled as a child she put some in greens she gathered before she knew the difference between the two varieties. It was cooked and eaten, and grandmother added with a chuckle, "None of us died".

Back to the yard and to the row of rhubarb, along the garden fence, here grandmother looked for tender shoots and leaves of rhubarb, almost white in color. In my later years in chemistry class, I learned that this was, indeed, a dangerous thing to do. The leaves do produce a poison as they develop, but, as grandmother said about the red dock, "None of us died". Like the "pokeweed", I have eliminated young rhubarb shoots from my greens.

How we enjoyed these cooked greens--and I still do--but living in town I find my green gathering is limited. There was a standard menu to be served with the greens in grandmother's home--greens cooked with a ham bone, or a piece of side meat for seasoning, onions sliced in vinegar, potatoes cooked in their jackets, hard cooked eggs and hot corn bread. Usually, hot sassafras tea was served with this. Grandmother said in her day they sweetened the tea with honey taken from a "bee tree". Indeed, a meal "fit for a king".

One story grandmother told me many times and I always enjoyed it as if it were the first time to hear it. Grandmother's family moved to Indiana from Ohio in her early childhood. They lived just over the line in Salt Creek Township, Decatur Co., from Ray Township, Franklin Co. One early fall, her parents decided to make a trip--by wagon--to Brookville for winter supplies.



Great-grandmother wanted calico and decided to go with her husband on the trip. Grandmother, about 12 years old, was to be left at home to take care of two younger brothers, milk the cow, and feed the chickens. The trip was a two day trip. By leaving before daylight, they could get to Brookville in late afternoon. Their supplies could be purchased and packed in the wagon. Leaving before daylight the next morning, they would arrive home before dark on their second day out from home. Great-grandmother told her 12 year old daughter, whatever she did, she must watch the fire in the fireplace, that it did not go out.

It was a beautiful warm, sunny day that one so often experiences in Indiana in October. The three children did their morning chores, then played out in the yard all morning, until they became hungry. They had been out much longer than grandmother had realized--and the fire was out in the fireplace, and no red coals!

Under such conditions, there was only one thing to do. Go to the nearest neighbors, thru the woods for coals. Grandmother put her two little brothers in the house, told them to "bar the door" when she went out and to open to no one but her. She took an iron cooking pot to carry the coals. Grandmother was not sure how far it was to the nearest neighbor, but she thought it was about 2 miles through the woods--longer by the rough wagon road. She went thru the woods! The kind neighbor took the little girl in, gave her some cookies and milk--put ashes in the bottom of the iron pot, then filled it about half full of glowing coals, covered them all with more ashes and started grandmother home. By this time darkness was settling in the woods. She thought she saw an Indian behind each tree (grandmother said they had never seen but one Indian in that area and he was friendly). She was sure she heard a bear crashing thru the underbrush. She cried and she ran and, finally after dark, reached home. Her two little brothers were frightened and crying. They opened the door for her, she soon had a fire going, night chores done, and supper finally cooked and eaten. She made her little brothers promise not to tell on her and she said it was four or five years later before she told her mother of her adventure. A far cry from today's living!!

Is it any wonder when spring comes that I think of our green gathering expeditions and long for a "branch" and "potato patch" in which I might gather a "mess of greens".

Anna Lee (Hickman) Linville  
Lexington, Virginia



## PERSONALS

We see by the Sioux City SUNDAY JOURNAL that Henry Kluemper has taken up knitting. His latest endeavor was a shawl donated to a Xmas charity there that netted \$104.....Marjorie Johnston Aichele of California writes about five of the men that were to be identified in the last issue - but Marjorie, you didn't say what they had in common!!.....Did you know that the New York Public Library keeps the BULLETIN on file?.....Everett Huntzinger of Pendleton and a buddy are pictured in the Anderson DAILY BULLETIN in the act of straightening and leveling a gravestone in the old Cap Tucker cemetery there. This was a project of the Madison Co. Hist. Society. Very much in evidence was their derrick, a tripod affair with a chain hoist attached. ....Mrs. Henrick, a new member, writes from St. Louis. She seeks information about her great grandfather Lenard Rigor who left Decatur County around 1842, with a wagon train headed for Oregon. He stopped in Brown County, Illinois and died there. She further inquires about a Hattie or Mattie Rigor who was listed in the 1840 census as a toll gate keeper. Mrs. Henrick is curious as to what sort of a toll gate there was. Other names and places mentioned are Throp and Kindred who were relatives and the Hebron cemetery where supposedly there are Rigors buried. Her address--9012 Condor Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

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## OUR GROWING LIBRARY-

Mr. Arthur Rimstidt, a native of Decatur County and now living in Columbus, is the donor of Harding's HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY. We especially appreciate the gift since the book is very much in demand and today commands a price far above its original cost. However, as Mr. Rimstidt put it - money isn't everything.

Other items of interest, are a series of photographs - the gift of Mr. Leon Humbert, local attorney. These pictures featuring the public square have been displayed in the past and now have finally come home to the Society. One, particularly, showing the building line on the South side of the square about Civil War time, is rare.



"The older I grow the more I am convinced that happiness is to be gotten in but one way, and that by being able to contribute to the happiness of others."

Jake Gimbel  
(Originator of the Gimbel Award now  
known as the Trester Award)

DECATUR COUNTY  
TEAMS SHOW WELL

2,000 BASKET BALL  
FANS TURNED AWAY  
FROM TOURNAMENT

Doors Opened at Rushville Tournament  
at 6 o'clock and Building  
Was Crowded Five Minutes  
Later

---

SANDUSKY WINNER  
OF BASKET TOURNEY  
HELD AT RUSHVILLE

---

Defeats Manilla by 18 to 12 Score  
Will Play Evansville at  
Bloomington

---

THE BEST TEAM WON

---

SANDUSKY DEFEATS  
EVANSVILLE TEAM  
AT BLOOMINGTON

---

Marlowe Brother Star With Their  
Effective Basket Shooting----  
Capacity Crowd Sees Game

---

ARE REAL CONTENDERS

---

Sporting Men Opine That Decatur  
County Team is Real Contender for State Championship



Ah!...Basketball, in Indiana! \_\_\_\_\_ Hoosier Hysteria!!  
Hoosier madness. All its color and excitement! \_\_\_\_\_ Ah, nostalgia.  
Some of you can recall the above headlines that appeared in our local  
newspapers in the spring of 1921.

It was my good fortune to grow up in Clinton Township near Sandusky when  
all this was occurring. These famous "boys" were and are my good friends,  
although some four or five years my senior. I knew and played with  
them and enjoyed their great victories over strong competitors. How well  
I remember the warm spring days when we were given the day off to wander  
along Clifty Creek while our teachers and older students went to  
Indianapolis to meet the boys from the large cities in basketball  
competition. As we put in our time throwing rocks into the creek and  
talked of what our older classmates and the team were doing, it seemed  
as if the day would never end. We had to wait until the following  
morning to read of our fortunes at the Indianapolis Coliseum, as this  
was before we had radio or television. We were sad to hear of our  
team's defeat at the hands of the Vincennes Alices by a score of  
26 to 19. But the rewards and efforts were worthwhile even in defeat.

Excerpt from the Indianapolis Star of March 1921

#### SANDUSKY STRONG IN DEFEAT

Sandusky was eliminated from the state championship in the first  
game of the evening by Vincennes, the conquerors of Tech, but the  
little fellows from the little Hoosier hamlet put up one of the gamest  
fights ever seen in a state tournament and led the speedy Vincennes team  
up until the last four minutes of play. The final score stood 26 to 19.  
It was a great fight that the team from a high school of nine boys put  
up, and every one of the 6,000 spectators that crowded the coliseum  
was for them except the 200 Vincennes followers, and they gave the game  
youngsters a big hand. The first half ended with Sandusky leading 15  
to 12.

The splendid work of Ralph and Clyde Marlowe kept the lead for  
Sandusky until the pressure of the Vincennes attack became too great  
for endurance. The same tidal flood of baskets that swamped Tech last  
week at Bloomington overcame Sandusky's chances. The Marlowe brothers  
scored all the points for Sandusky, while every man on the Vincennes  
team scored at least one basket.

The widely known Sandusky team put up a great fight against  
Vincennes. The hamlet players lost the game, but the crowd was all for  
them. And it is not that the fans loved Vincennes less, they loved  
Sandusky more.

And now the best of all:

#### STAR FROM SANDUSKY GETS GIMBEL AWARD

Ralph Marlowe, forward of Sandusky High School, received the 1921  
Gimbel prize (now Trester Award) for showing the finest all-round  
sportsmanship in this year's state high school basketball tournament.

Greensburg Daily News - March 21, 1921



This is a part of the tradition that has been the contributing factor of the love and the spirit, that lived in the boys and girls of Sandusky School for the many years that followed. True and honest sportsmanship was the guiding light of our school in all the years that followed until 1963.

The members of this famous team were Dr. Ralph Marlowe, D.D., a prominent dentist and civic leader of Plainfield, Indiana, who played at forward.

Leslie Palmer, co-owner of The Leader Shoe Store in Greensburg, who played at forward.

Clyde B. Marlowe, successful farmer of Sandusky, who played at center.

Elbert Richards (Dutch), successful farmer and school bus driver, of near Greensburg, who played as guard.

Arthur Wilson (Red) Farmer living at Morristown, Indiana, who played at guard.

Omer Warneke (Deceased) former principal of Greensburg High School, who played at forward.

Rollin C. Wilkison, retired businessman of Barstow, California, who played at guard.

The team was coached by Ivan Overman, son of the Rev. I. C. Overman, a former pastor of First Baptist Church in Greensburg. The last account I read of him was that he was engaged in athletic work in Syracuse, N.Y.

The guiding hand of these boys was the principal, Mr. Elbert G. Griffith, one of the finest educators in our county for nineteen years, now a gentleman farmer living near Greenfield, Indiana. It was he who kept alive the pride in good sportsmanship and great school spirit, that was forever Sandusky and Clinton Township.

In these days of unrest and turmoil in our society and educational institutions, one may well ask: Why? - Is it all because there is no work for our young to perform? All of the above boys were products of humble homes, where each knew the meaning of hard work. Each became a success in his chosen endeavor.

Let's never discredit honest sports, conducted under right leadership in our secondary schools and colleges. It builds boys into men of character and leadership.

(My sincere thanks for the information furnished for this little Resume to Dr. Ralph Marlowe, D.D.)

J.T.



# POPULATION

	Barth.	Shelby	Ripley	Rush	Decatur	Jennings	Franklin
1810	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1820	-	-	1822	-	-	2000	10763
1830	5476	6295	3989	9707	5887	3974	10190
1840	10042	12005	10392	16456	12171	8829	13349
1850	12428	15502	14820	16445	15107	12096	17968
1860	17865	19569	19054	16193	17294	14749	19549
1870	21133	21892	20977	17626	19053	16218	20223
1880	22777	25257	21627	19238	19779	16453	20092
1890	23867	25454	19350	19034	19277	14608	18366
1900	24594	26491	19881	20148	19518	15757	16388
1910	24813	26802	19452	19349	18793	14203	15335
1920	23887	25982	18694	19241	17813	13280	14806
1930	24864	26552	18078	19412	17308	11800	14498
1940	28276	25953	18898	18927	17722	13680	14412
1950	36108	28026	18763	19799	18218	15250	16034
1960	48198	34093	20641	20393	20019	17267	17015

ed - next year is a census year.

\* \* \*

## THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1969

President. . . . . W. F. McCardle  
1st V. P.. . . . . Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V. P.. . . . . Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy . . . . Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec. Secy. . . Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer. . . . Miss Alpha Thackery



DECATUR COUNTY AS REPRESENTED  
IN THE HOUSE - INDIANA STATE  
LEGISLATURE 1851-1967

George C. Ale 1931-1933  
Davis Batterton 1857  
David M. Blackmore 1917  
Samuel A. Bonner 1855  
William H. Bonner 1865  
W. Calvert Brand 1967  
Barker Brown 1875  
James R. Crawley 1939-1941  
Jacob L. Doll 1891  
Harold R. Donnell 1927-1929  
John S. Donnell 1879  
Samuel B. Eward 1911  
Erastus L. Floyd 1885  
Oliver P. Gilham 1869 (?)  
William H. Goddard 1897  
George Gcudue 1873  
Ira G. Grover 1861  
William J. Hare 1919-1921  
Benjamin T. Hill 1871  
Archibald M. Kennedy 1871 & 1877  
William J. Kincaid 1913-1915 & 1925  
Herbert Kohler 1961-1963  
John M. Lewis 1967  
Willard Low 1965  
Jethro C. Meek 1909  
John D. Miller 1873  
William A. Moore 1867  
Marshall E. Newhouse 1893-1895  
Robert W. Oliger 1959  
William R. Pleak 1887  
Oscar L. Pulse 1883  
William C. Pulse 1923  
Zachariah T. Riley 1877  
James B. Robinson 1881 & 1889  
William J. Robinson 1859  
Noah T. Rogers 1901  
Cecil G. Schuyler 1957  
John N. Shaw 1875  
Henry B. Sherman 1903  
Harry A. Stearns 1935-1937  
David M. Stewart 1869  
William T. Strickland 1871  
Albert T. Thompson 1943-1945-1947  
Alexander L. Underwood 1853  
Daniel R. Van Buskirk 1863  
Harl H. Wilson 1949-1951-1953-1955  
Webb Woodfill 1905-1907

eds note - The twenty-nine men listed in the last issue  
of the BULLETIN under the heading - CAN YOU  
IDENTIFY THESE MEN? - served this county in  
the State Senate for the period 1851-1967.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 41

Greensburg, Indiana

October 4, 1969

**NEW MEMBERS - WELCOME!**

Dr. Roy H. Benke - Indpls.  
Mrs. Roy H. Benke - Indpls.  
Mrs. Ruth Nyce Burton - North  
Manchester, Indiana  
Edward S. McKee - Rochester, N.Y.  
John L. McKee - Summit, N.J.  
Jack Lines - Yakima, Wash.  
Mrs. Frank Gavin - San Diego,  
Calif.  
Mrs. Cecil W. Mann - Sylva,  
N.C.  
Mrs. Amanda Sefton - Manchester,  
Mo. 614

**OCCASION: Fall Tour**

**DATE:** Sunday afternoon, Oct 12,  
1969

**PLACE:** Jennings County Courthouse  
Vernon, Indiana at 2 P.M.

**PROGRAM:** Historic Vernon -  
Tunnel Mill -  
Grave of Wilbur Shaw -  
Battle of Finney's Ford -  
North American House -  
J.M. & I. Ry. -  
B & C Depot -  
Antique Shops - Museum

\* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1969

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec. Secy...Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

Mr. Homer Dell, historian  
and member of Jennings C  
Historical Society will  
speak.

Refreshments!!!

BRING YOUR WALKING SHOES

SEE MAP ATTACHED.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \*

It was George Cary Eggleston who told about the man from the East  
who asked about routes to various points in and beyond Indiana:

"If I want to go to Indianapolis, what road do I take?"  
he asked.

"Why, you go to Napoleon, and take the road northwest."

"If I want to go to Madison?"

"Go to Napoleon, and take the road wouthwest."

"Suppose I want to go to St. Louis?"

"Why, you go to Napoleon, and take the ... road west."

....At last the man asked in despair:

"Well now, stranger, suppose I wanted to go to H...?"

The .... (Hoosier) answered without a moment's hesita-  
tion, "Oh, in that case, just go to Napoleon, and stay  
there."

George C. Eggleston-RECOLLECTIONS OF A VARIED LIFE



TERRIBLE SWIFT SWORD by Bruce Catton, page 411

"(Confederate General) Bragg also was driving north, and Buell's men marched hard in a vain effort to overtake him. Bragg came up thirty miles east of Bowling Green, which had marked the center of Albert Sidney Johnston's line just a year earlier, and at Munfordville, where the railroad to Louisville crossed the Green River, he struck a Federal strong point held by 4000 men under Colonel John T. Wilder, who until recently had been an unassuming Indiana business man and who now was about to add a strange little footnote to the story of the Civil War.

"Bragg's advance guard attacked the fortifications twice and was repulsed with moderate loss. Then Bragg brought up the rest of his army and sent in a demand for surrender, pointing out that the Federals were surrounded and that their case was hopeless. Through the Confederate lines that night came a flag of truce and a Yankee officer--Colonel Wilder in person, seeking a conference with Major General Buckner, who led a division in Hardee's corps. In Buckner's tent Wilder became disarmingly frank. He was not, he said, a military man at all, but he did want to do the right thing. He had heard that Buckner was not only a professional soldier but an honest gentleman as well; and would Buckner now please tell him if, under the rules of the game, it was Colonel Wilder's duty to surrender or to fight it out?

"Somewhat flabbergasted--he said later that he 'would not have deceived that man under those circumstances for anything'--Buckner said Wilder would have to make his own decision. (He knew what a weight that was. Seven months earlier he had had to surrender Fort Donelson, his superiors having fled from responsibility, and when he sent a flag through the Yankee lines his old friend Grant had been merciless.) Buckner pointed out that Wilder's men were hemmed in by six times their own numbers and that Bragg had enough artillery in line to destroy the fort in short order; at the same time, if the sacrifice of every man would aid the Federal cause elsewhere it was Wilder's duty to fight. . . . In the end, Buckner took him to see Bragg, who was curt with him but let him count the cannon in the Confederate works. Wilder counted enough to convince him that the jig was up, and at last he surrendered: a well-meaning but bewildered citizen-soldier who had gone to his enemy for professional advice and, all things considered, had been fairly dealt with."

C.R.E.  
Chapel Hill, N.C.

eds note- John T. Wilder was a colorful individual, a leader in this community and a successful civilian soldier. The incident described above as "a strange little footnote" bears out the expression that the Civil War was the first modern one and the last romantic one. To both of these John Wilder subscribed. His introduction of the repeating Spencer rifle at Hoover's Gap, so devastating to the Confederate forces along with his equipping his Hatcher Brigade with that simple tool-are indicative of a modern war. Criticised for erecting his own monument at Chicamauga and on another occasion for stealing horses - but it was war- nevertheless he was a leader and the whole story hasn't been told - particularly his as an "ironmonger" before and after the war. He is buried at the foot of Lookout Mountain.



Further in this connection, members of the Indianapolis Civil War Round-table and friends here in Greensburg have contributed money for the erection of a tablet honoring the general. The site has not yet been determined. Here is an excellent opportunity for the Historical Society to participate in commemorating the name of one of Greensburg's illustrious soldiers.

\* \* \* \*

### THIS AND THAT

Mrs. Amanda Sefton writes that she was delightfully surprised to find a reference and request for information on the Crum-Crume family of Decatur County as this is one of the families she is tracing....The Society is especially pleased to welcome and add the new members to the roster - scattered as they are. The toponymy of Decatur County has to do with its physical and cultural features, in other words its place names. For example -

Tub Creek is a small stream that rises North of and flows through New Point. It is a branch of Laughery Creek. There is a legend, that if you have ever waded in Tub Creek, you may leave but sometime you will return - perhaps not for long but you will return.

Other place names to mention a few, and there are hundreds of them, are - Biddingers Crossing, Richmond, Tarkeo, Drydens Park, Oklahoma, Painter Creek Hill, Wintersville, Harper, Madison Road, Pompeys Pillar, Tarvia Road, Concord, etc. The subject of place names is a fascinating one and is closely related to genealogy. Every crossroad or hamlet, every stream or swamp has a story - its name and origin, location, post-office or not, any event that occurred there, its legends and so on. This editor wishes that members come forth with place names and the related story familiar to them. This could be a lasting contribution to the lore of Decatur County and a source of information.

\* \* \* \*

**MEMBERSHIP** - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

**EARLY BIRDS** - It is time again for the EARLY BIRDS. The President suggests that you pay your 1970 membership fee at the fall meeting, in order that the Recording Secretary can hand you your new membership card at the dinner meeting. Object - to save postage!!!

\* \* \* \*

**NAPOLÉON** - It is an old story that to go any place, you had to start from Napoleon but until now we could not document it. It appears that George was a bit naive in his description of early Hoosier life, much like his brother Edward.



She was an Oldster when I was a Youngster - this is her story, told by both of us.

Mrs. Rebecca Von Cleve Pulse, mother of William Pulse, founder of the Pulse Lumber Company, lived in a great old family style house that stood between number 225 and 235 West North Street on the half block east of Monfort.

Mrs. Pulse described her place as "the old Mills Henry home," - it was the family place of the Henry family. The house itself was old and spacious of Civil War period. It was built in southern style, the structure comprising a full two story center section fronted with a long deep porch with tall round pillars reaching past the second story. Long wings, of one story, extended to the right and to the left of the two story center portion.

Each wing had six rooms, two of which formed an ell at the outside end of the wing partially embracing a back yard "work space" garden. The center section first floor was divided into two big rooms, one in front, one in the rear, each had a huge fireplace in the center dividing wall.

For a time I lived with Mrs. Pulse under her care from Monday till Friday while attending High School. On winter evenings it was a privilege listening to interesting stories about the Pulse family - its pioneer days in Ripley County before moving to Saltcreek Township in Decatur County where, she said, they built a big stone house north of New Point and lived there for some time before coming to Greensburg.

Mrs. Pulse was interested in American heritage and in young people especially those under her charge. One evening, anxious to hear how my history lessons were progressing, she put a question. My answer was typically childish. "Oh yes - I'm reading about something away far off way back - about when Lafayette came to this country in 1824."

Now, in my young inexperienced mind at the time, both Lafayette and 1824 were about as far off as 1492 or the ark. So, I hope to be excused for having a shade of doubt at the time of her story, although I did listen and happily I remembered.

Said she, "General Lafayette visited in my father's home when he stopped at Fort Washington, now Cincinnati. At the time of his visit in 1824-25, my father John Von Cleve owned the land where the town of Cleves now stands and is at present part of Cincinnati.

"When the General came, he bowed from the waist with delightful manner and asked about each and every member of the family. He was answered with courtesy, of course, but with not as much formality. "And how is the Madame Von Cleve", the General said with another deep bow. My father answered and declared that the Madame "was very well indeed and that a baby son had arrived and that he, the general had come just in time to name the new baby boy, already six months old but who had not been given a name.



The general was delighted and with another deep bow took the infant into his arms, and with quite some solemnity spoke:-

"Youngest man of the Von Cleve family and son of my esteemed friend John Von Cleve, I bestow upon you my full name - Marie Jean Paul Yves Roch Gilbert Du Motier, Marquis De Lafayette." And at this point the General "bows" out of the story. The little boy who was held by Lafayette and named by him grew to manhood and lived to a ripe old age, but he never used his long name - he was always known as Lafe Von Cleve. For a time he resided in Greensburg.

His sister, Rebecca Von Cleve Pulse was born December 3, 1823 in Ohio. The parents were John Von Cleve and wife Jane Clar (K)? Mrs. Pulse died June 20, 1913 in her home on West North Street - aged 89 years, 6 months and 17 days.

Soo - this relater of tales, as told by Rebecca Von Cleve Pulse, has touched the hand that touched the hand of Lafayette.

Remind me sometime, I do want to shake your hand.

Jennie Starks McKee

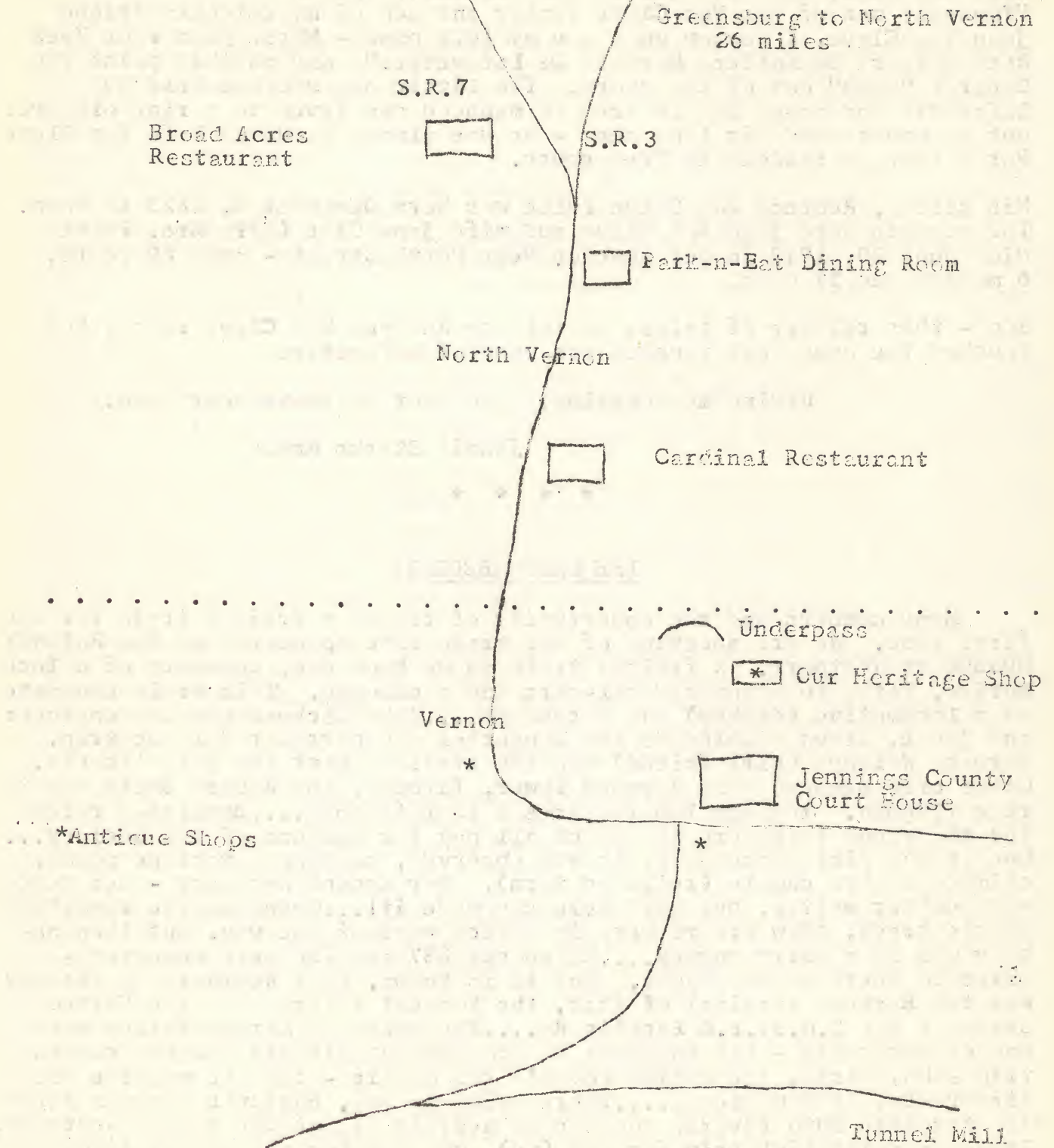
\* \* \* \*

#### THE LAST MEETING

Many members had the opportunity of riding a freight train for the first time. We are speaking of the train ride sponsored by the RAILWAY MUSEUM at Westport. A freight train as we know one, consists of a locomotive, fifty to a hundred box-cars and a caboese. This train consisted of a locomotive (dinkey) and a caboese....John Hickman was the engineer and Joe E. Brown doubled as the conductor and narrator for the trip. Barbara Walenga (girl friend) was the station agent and sold tickets. Other crew members were Raymond Tower, fireman, and Robert Smith was the rear flagman. Indiana law requires a rear flagman....Excursion rates for the round trip were in effect all day for members of the Society... One of the girl passengers, it was observed, seeking a vantage point, climbed to the cupola (railroad term). Her ascent was easy - her descent was another matter, but with help she made it!...Owing to the condition of the track, slow orders were in effect most of the way, but then nobody was in a hurry anyway....Mileposts 237 and 238 were observed - miles to where nobody knows. But it is known, that Westport in its day was the Eastern terminal of this, the longest railroad in the United States - the C.M.St.P.& Pacific Ry....The delay at Harper Valley was one of necessity - the engineer had to pump up his air for the return trip - Not girls, the engine doesn't run on air - the air was for the air brakes, if you please....There being no way, Engineer Hickman threw the throttle into reverse and backed merrily all of the way to Westport. It was a delightful trip for one (me), who has for all of his life, been exposed to the railroad one way or another. Enroute home the group stopped at OLD STONEY as guests of the William Parkers and were served iced tea and cookies to round out the social hour. Here the warm hospitality of the Parkers in their beautiful setting made for a fine climax to another good meeting. President McCardle presided over a short business session.



MAP OF TOUR AREA





THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 42

Greensburg, Indiana

November 22, 1969

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Hunter Robbins  
Charles Seitz-Colorado 616

\* \* \* \*

COMMITTEES

Arrangements

Forrest McCardle

Audit

Mrs. Dwight Williams  
Raymond Carr

Calling

Miss Gladys Aldrich  
Mrs. Roy Beeson  
Mrs. Frank Clark  
Mrs. Paul H. Huber  
Mrs. George Greer  
Mrs. Frank Marlin  
Mrs. Forrest McCardle  
Mrs. Raymond Moeller  
Mrs. Charles Osburn  
Mrs. Pansy Reed  
Mrs. Mabel Samuels  
Mrs. Delton Shazer  
Miss Victoria Woolverton

Decorations

Mrs. Forrest McCardle  
Charles A. Walls

Display

Charles Osburn

Nominations

Paul H. Huber  
Frank Marlin  
William Parker

Program

William H. Hunter  
Mrs. Dan Baldwin

OCCASION: Eleventh Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election  
of Officers.

SPEAKER: Mr. Robert D. Garton

DATE: Saturday night, December  
6th., 1969 at 6:00 P.M.,  
Greensburg Time.

PLACE: Presbyterian Church  
N.E. corner Public Square,  
Greensburg, Indiana.  
Entrance on Washington  
Street.

Mr. Garton is President of Robert  
Garton Associates, a management  
consulting firm in Columbus, Ind.  
A gifted speaker of national acclaim,  
perhaps the greatest honor bestowed  
on him to date, is that he is current-  
ly listed in the 1969 editions of  
"Outstanding Young Men in America".  
Mr. Garton's subject will be -  
"AN INFLUENCE CALLED INDIANA".  
A native of Iowa, Indiana is proud  
to claim him, as the membership will  
attest after hearing him.

\* \* \* \*

RESERVATIONS

If you have not already been con-  
tacted, please call Mrs. Forrest  
McCardle (662-5432) by Tuesday,  
December 2nd. if you plan to attend  
the dinner. Tickets are \$2.00 each,  
payable at the door.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!



## YOUR COUNTY

DECATUR COUNTY, organized in 1821, was named after the gallant Commodore Stephen Decatur. It is bounded north by Rush, east by Franklin and Ripley, south by Jennings, and west by Bartholomew and Shelby, and it contains 400 square miles. It is divided into nine townships, Washington, Fugit, Clinton, Adams, Clay, Jackson, Sand Creek, Marion and Salt Creek. The population in 1830 was 5,854, in 1840 15,553, and at this time about 19,000.

There are no barrens or prairie lands in the county; the face of the country is mostly level, with gentle undulations, though on some of the streams it is hilly; the bottoms are rich, though small; the soil of the upland is generally a rich, black loam, and the timber consists principally of ash, poplar, walnut, sugar tree, oak and beech. Along the east and south line of the county there is some flat, wet land, good for grass, but not adapted to grain. The manufacturing establishments and mechanical trades of the county are merely sufficient for home consumption. The staple productions for export are hogs, cattle, horses, mules and wheat, and they are estimated to amount to \$150,000 annually. There are in the county thirty-eight stores and groceries, twenty grist mills, twenty saw mills, one woolen factory, of which all but six are propelled by water, twelve lawyers, twenty-three physicians and twenty ministers of the gospel. The County Seminary, at Greensburgh, is in a prosperous condition with about seventy-five pupils, and the common school system is in moderately successful operation throughout the county. The following is the number of churches of the various denominations: four Old School, two New School and one Associate Reformed Presbyterian, ten Baptist, ten Methodist, four Christian and one Catholic. The county of Decatur and its inhabitants, without making any special parade as to literature, morals, or enterprise, may be said to be self-sharpeners, steadily progressing in a variety of ways, and not inferior in respectability to any part of the State.

The taxable land in the county amounts to 224,847 acres, and only between 500 and 1,000 acres still belong to the United States.



## MEMORIES OF MILLHOUSEN

At the turn of the century Millhousen was a booming little town as compared to now. There were 4 general stores, a harness shop where my uncle made complete sets of harness, a tannery, saw mill, flour mill, shingle factory and 4 saloons - being a German settlement most everybody drank beer. Herbert & Rohrs owned the saw mill, the flour mill, the tannery and the shingle mill. Grandfather Herbert cut the shingles - they were poplar shingles and I bunched them as they came from the machine. Another of my chores was to pump the tan bark brine from one tank to another at the tannery. There were also 2 blacksmiths. My grandfather Johann Scheidler was a blacksmith and wagon-maker - who taught his son George the trade. They made wagons from scratch and also turned out hubs for buggies, surreys and light spring wagons... I often think of Millhousen as being one big family, where everybody helped each other when extra help was needed. Nearly every family butchered their own pork and how I loved butchering day! Again it was a boys chore to help stuff the sausage and cut the lard. Too, we would go to the woods and gather hickory bark to smoke the meat.... Back in those days there was no electricity - all that one could see was a dim coal oil light burning in the house, or someone carrying a lantern to the barn.... Dr. Glass owned the first automobile - a Brush I am sure. My, what an event it was when Dr. Glass wheezed into town!.... My sister Mrs. Edward Luken still lives in the old home place. I left Millhousen in the spring of 1913. I was 19 years old when I went to Illinois to work. Except for returning in 1922 to be married, the next 43 years were spent in Illinois as a mail-carrier. I came back to Greensburg in 1956.... I often think what a wonderful and peaceful world this would be if everyone could live like the people of Millhousen lived back in those days. My early teenage days were happy ones and I thank God that I was born there.

Clem Scheidler



THE DISPLAY - A traditional part of the Dinner Meeting, members are asked to bring their old pictures. These can be old street scenes, early automobiles, trains and stations, school groups, floods, street fairs, early farm scenes and the like. Some one has said that a picture is worth a thousand words. All members are urged to bring an old picture.

SOMETHING OF VALUE - A Cincinnati book store offers Father Riebenthaler's A CENTURY OF CATHOLICITY IN MILLHOUSE, INDIANA for sale at \$6.00. Published in 1934, this little volume of 63 pages is a worthwhile addition to our growing library. We are pleased to have a copy, thanks to Father Riebenthaler.

CRUM-CRUME FAMILY - Mrs. Amanda Sefton might write Mrs. Everett Huntzinger, RFD 1, Box 57, Pendleton, Indiana 46064 for information on the Crum-Crume family.

#### THE LAST MEETING

Some 35 members and guests journeyed to Jennings county, Sunday, October 12th. for the fall field trip. They were greeted at the court house in Vernon by Mr. Homer Dell, the local historian and a member of the Jennings County Historical Society. The speaker related that the court house, the third of its kind, was built in 1859. Materials were locally burnt brick, locally quarried sand stone with an imported roof of 40 lb. tern (English tin) which is still on the building. The Old Tavern, an inn and stage coach stop, built in 1838 still stands at the Northwest corner of the public square. It is now occupied as an antique shop, museum and art center. The Old Tunnel Mill off limits due to the recent rains, was built prior to 1839 as a depot for the original Madison & Indpls. Ry. There are a number of "firsts" in this section of Jennings county. Among them-the first railroad and the first railroad overpass - there in Vernon to be seen - a brick lined structure still sturdy after these 132 years. Vernon had the first all women jury as well as the first public playground in Indiana. John Vawter was the first settler in Vernon, this about 1815. The trek continued to historic Paris 14 miles distant from Vernon. John Hunt Morgan's raiders passed through Paris in 1863. Settled about 1800, a plank road was later built to Madison 19 miles away. Paris was originally located in Jefferson county but due to a shift in county lines as was so often the case, it is now located in Jennings county. Paris Crossing some few miles away came into being when the B. & O. Ry. was built from North Vernon to Jeffersonville. The day's festivities ended at Muscatatuck Park with delicious refreshments of tea rings and apple cider.



Members can still qualify as EARLY BIRDS by paying their  
1970 dues at the dinner meeting. There has been no increase  
in prices - one dollar as usual!

\* \* \* \* \*  
\* WITH ALL BEST WISHES \*  
\* FOR \*  
\* THE HOLIDAYS \*  
\* AND \*  
\* THE NEW YEAR! \*  
\* \* \* \* \*



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 43

Greensburg, Indiana

May 2, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Paul Roszell  
Carl L. Clark  
Mrs. Carl L. Clark  
Miss Mary Lou Linville  
Mrs. Helen Hopkins Blemker  
Eugene, Oregon  
Mrs. Sylvia Bird Tiernan - Indpls.  
Mrs. Minnie Harding Phillips -  
Indpls. 623

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon,  
May 17, 1970 at 2:30 P.M.

PLACE: R.E.M.C. Auditorium  
SR 3-46 West

PROGRAM: The 1959 Centennial Film -  
"THE GREENSBURG STORY -  
OF THIS BE PROUD".

Business Meeting

Pickin' Greens

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Let others go a hikin' or a  
paintin' rural scenes,  
I'll get up close to nature while  
I'm out a pickin' greens.  
I'll find vitamins and iron,  
a plenty and to spare,  
In dandelion and sour dock-come  
and get your share,  
Hen pepper and wild lettuce and a  
patch of watercress  
A-growin' in the meadow, are  
callin' me I guess,  
For Ima-gettin' restless-where's  
my basket and my knife?  
I'll roam about and pick a mess-  
Oh, boy, this is the life!

PLAN TO ATTEND!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind  
Rec. Secy...Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

Ruth Williams Bright

WHEN HAVE YOU HEARD OF?--Pear's----, Mellin's----, Waverly-----.  
The Keely ----, Cascarets, Sapolio, Ingersoll -----,  
Columbia -----, Split Hickory -----, Hayner -----,  
Larkin -----, Gaar-Scott -----, Iver Johnson -----,  
Atlas -----, Conklin -----, Maxwell -----, Post Toasties-----



## HERE AND THERE

COMING EVENTS- The New Point Christian Church will continue to observe its centennial with special services on the following Sundays of this year. They are May 24 - Sept. 27 - Dec. 27th. A centennial memorial booklet is also being compiled..... Napoleon will observe its sesqui-centennial during the period August 14-25 this year.

WE ARE PLEASED - The Indiana History Bulletin for last December carried Anna Lee Linville's story-GATHERING GREENS- as copied from the August issue of the BULLETIN. Their quote-"It evoked a nice sense of nostalgia". Congratulations Mrs. Linville!

OTHER CENSUS YEARS- Calvin Davis writing in the INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY for December, has an excellent article on our own center of population as determined by the census of 1890. Do we need to tell you that Mr. Davis is an associate professor of history at Duke University, a member of the Society and a native of Sand Creek Township? He attended his first year of school at Letts, almost within sight of the monument erected there by the CHICAGO HERALD....The title of the article is- THE FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER CENSUS! ITS INDIANA MEMORIAL! In it Mr. Davis pays a tribute to Turner for his thesis that the 1890 census had a special meaning. Our frontier no longer rested on the Potomac- with North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington admitted to the Union in 1889- followed by Idaho and Wyoming the next year- it was Westward! Ho!... Mr. Davis skillfully leaves Turner and goes on to give us a clear cut account of a memorable occasion that occurred Sunday, May 10, 1891 - the dedication of our CENTRE OF POPULATION monument! You will enjoy reading the account.

OUR CEMETERIES--County Cemetery Commissions came into existence in March 1970 - by act of the State Legislature of March 11, 1969. The purpose of the Decatur County Commission is to maintain and restore as much as possible the burial grounds and neglected cemeteries established before 1850. An appeal goes out to public spirited citizens, to landowners, to all who have appreciation for their heritage, to any who have knowledge of the location of these neglected cemeteries in Decatur County- that they help locate these burial grounds before they disappear entirely. Write to-

The Chairman  
County Cemetery Board  
Court House  
Greensburg, Indiana

Many of these cemeteries hold pioneer leaders of our state as well as veterans of every American War including the Revolutionary War. Civic pride and basic citizen respect should prompt us to remedy this condition. More than fifty Revolutionary soldiers graves have been located in Decatur County- there are more to be found. Careful preservation of the inscriptions of the tombstones that are fast disappearing is the first step- in helping to preserve our pioneer history.

Mrs. H. S. McKee



## PLAY BALL!!

Millhousen's first baseball team, first because they were the first to wear uniforms and to travel away from home, came along about 1910 or 1912. Napoleon was an arch rival as were Osgood, Greensburg, Smyrna, New Point and Sardinia. Their manager was George Feldman, Dr. Glass was the umpire and Henry Meier kept score. Mr. Idelwine drove the hack when the team traveled. There were no grandstand seats and no admission was charged- except that someone passed the hat- history does not record his name. There were expenses because Mr. Idelwine had to have five dollars to drive the hack- enough to feed the mules. Their diamond was on the Ben Feldman farm.

C. Holzhauser starred for Napoleon and was much feared by Millhousen pitchers. Henry Oliger and Charley Link, later prominent business men made up the battery for Greensburg. Oliger was the pitcher. New Point in those years, when at home played on Brogan's Field.

Millhousen's greatest triumph was a no-hit game pitched by Clem Scheidler against Napoleon. Also their best batter which is uncommon for a pitcher, he always had the cleanup spot in the lineup. Scheidler later hurt his arm and played third base thereafter. Leo Blankman became the mainstay pitcher- a left hander who ran the Millhousen mill for many years.

The usual lineup - Geo. Feldman l.f.  
Lawrence Blankman r.f.  
Alvin Feldman c.  
Clem Scheidler 3b.  
John Witkemper c.f.  
Dave Fry s.s.  
Matt Scheidler 2b.  
Louis Blankman lb.  
Leo Blankman p.

We like to think that these boys are still playing baseball- on the Elysian Fields of course. For some of us, there was no sport like the amateur baseball of early days- thanks to big Holzhauser of Napoleon; the Blankmans from Millhousen; Oliger and Link of Greensburg; Minning and McKeighan from New Point; Levi and Wagner from Osgood- to name just a few!



Ma didn't like ol' Redmon. I don't know when he first appeared at the Greer place; since we didn't live there very long he had to appear at one time or another that I like to believe that I can remember. But I know that I don't, and I have often wondered why I don't. Why would I forget an earlier visit of the old ex-Confederate soldier who had a habit --- May called it "makin' the rounds" --- of dropping in at more or less periodic intervals? I recall so many other more commonplace things.

Pa liked ol' Redmon. Ma claimed that he liked anyone, though, who would sit and "gas" with him by the hour, especially if it was someone who had been a couple of hundred yards away from home a time or two. He did like to talk, Pa did. "Soundin' the other feller out" he called it, a sort of comparing of notes, more or less.

I suppose Ol' Redmon was a remnant of that which had been not too many years before a considerable number of footloose ex-soldiers of the Civil War period, both Union and Confederate. The one time southern soldier, possibly misplaced by the havoc wrought in his homeland by that war, may have had, perhaps, something that at least resembled a reasonable excuse for taking to the road after the conflict. More than one, I believe we can assume, had no home, in some cases no people, to whom to return. Few ex-Union soldiers, we must suppose, could honestly make that claim. Nevertheless, the blue and gray mingled once more, at peace and in nondescript garb this time, however, and in farflung places. Was there a more basic reason for this love of wanderlust on the part of both, an excuse that served also the ex-Union man?

Pa, I think could understand. He, too, loved the smell of woodsmoke and the open campfire, an inborn taste on his part, however, a way of life that chance, on the other hand, had so suddenly taught thousands of other men to recognize, appreciate, --- and accept. Possibly the seed of discontent lay dormant prior to the war in the hearts of many of these men, a class very likely born with a dislike of responsibility and the labor involved in any quest for something called success by more determined comrades. In the drenching experience of the battlefield the seed, we are constrained to believe, germinated and grew, sparked in the pauses between contests by the contrasting relief of army camp life. Those who responded to the invitation to continue after the war the freedom found beside the campfire and along the road did so with alacrity. And so there were to be seen for many years after the war was over, and scattered throughout the nation, a somewhat ragtag multitude subject, more or less, in their pursuit of the wherewithal by which to subsist, to courage and the whimsicality of chance. As time went by, of course, comrades, one by one, fell by the wayside, perhaps far, far from the battlefields that they once knew.

Yes, Pa liked Ol' Redmon. This didn't mean, though, that he accepted everything that he said as the sterling truth. For one thing, he claimed to have been reared in Virginia. Pa didn't believe



it. Ol' Redmon had all the earmarks, he insisted, of a far south Mississippi man. Pa, it seems, recognized the dialect. However that may be, though, the falsehood, if it was such, detracted in no considerable way from the interesting tales that he could tell, stories, of course, of the way, and episodes of tramlife, though some of these, Pa felt, were subject to doubt. Insignificant details such as these, however, were on the whole ignored; Pa's natural hospitality and his love for an exchange of related experiences as seen from the margin of a comparable viewpoint would not permit him to risk ruffling the feelings of a welcomed guest. So Ol' Redmon was always met with the "glad hand" as far as Pa was concerned --- and by Ma, too, up to the relating of a certain incident in the life of the old ex-soldier. Without argument it may be conceded that he was what at the time was termed a "bum", nothing more, in fact, however, that Ma at first did not emphasize, and she was for a time willing to feed the old transient and, upon occasion, to shape for him a pallet upon the floor for a night.

Pa asked no compensation in the guise of labor for either food or lodging and to expect anything in the way of a material return was a waste of thought. Nor did Ma expect or ask for anything. The most common of grub satisfied Ol' Redmon, and in the Hoosier hinterlands of better than fifty years ago, that was about all that he could expect. He could "down" a bowl of beans and cornbread in very short order, and his dexterity in removing the skins from potatoes boiled "with their jackets on" was amazing to see. But he wasn't always fortunate enough, it appears, to find someone who would feed him and, perhaps, "bed" him for a night entirely free of charge. No explanation is required, I think, in an attempt to clarify the underlying reason for a tramp's preference for women when making an appeal for substance with which to stay, at least momentarily, the pangs of hunger. Members of the fair sex, as a rule, respond more readily to an appeal for sympathy and aid, but if, as occasionally happens, the plea does fail of the desired effect there is less to fear if, in an unguarded moment, the disappointed tramp replies in kind. She isn't likely to try to toss him off the premises bodily, and old Fido, strange as it may seem, too often sees in the unkempt figure a kindred soul. But a man may be, and he frequently is, "a horse of a different color". His heartstrings do not always react favorably to the faltering song of despair.

In those days almost all women, those who did decide to heed a tramp's entreaty, requested therefor, however, a corresponding equivalent and sent him, usually, to the garden in summer, to the woodyard in winter. On the other hand, for a man he may have been asked to pitch hay, cut corn, or dig a ditch. Ol' Redmon had known such experiences. He didn't, though, like them, and wasn't at all above evading them whenever possible. One gathered, perforce, that he possessed an inveterate distaste for any kind of manual labor. And it was this revelation of basic character, revealed in one such tale relating thereto, that dropped him to the bedrock of Ma's



regard for him as a man deserving of sympathy. A lady, by whom he had been requested to do a certain amount of labor in exchange for a hand-out, sent him to the garden to hoe cabbages.

"But I fixed her," Ol' Redmon chortled. "I hoed them dum cabbages off jes' below the top o' the ground. It was to'ards evenin' an' a trifle cool, an' I knowed they wouldn't wilt before I could grab the grub an' git the hell outa there."

I suppose he never went back. And it was with some reluctance, I understand, that Ma, after hearing this tale, again permitted him to make himself at home betimes at the Greer place. But Pa's arguments on his behalf prevailed, I suppose. Anyway he continued to come. And then for the only remembered time I saw him. He followed us to the shack. We had moved in April and it was late in the following December when he made his appearance. Possibly he had lost track of us during the intervening period; though the distance from the Greer place to the shack was not more than a half mile as the crow flies he very probably overlooked for a time the hut so nearly hidden in the edge of the woodland. It was late in the evening and very cold, with a light dry snow shifting here and there ahead of each sudden gust of the bitter wind. He ate with us, of course, and after supper he and Pa talked --- and talked. Ol' Redmon never bothered with asking to spend the night; he merely remained until one was compelled to issue the invitation. Ma got up --- she hadn't wished to sit up and listen to the "old windbag" --- when they did decide finally that it was about time to go to bed, and shaped for him the usual pallet on the floor. The shack at best was little better than a windbreak, perched at each of the four corners on short posts that supported it some inches above the ground, and snow, with free access to the area beneath the floor, frequently found its way up through the wide cracks therein and lay, a thin scum of white "dust", underfoot until swept from sight through the accommodating (?) cracks. An old wood cooking stove used to heat the interior of the shack as best it could was barely sufficient to lift the temperature a few degrees above freezing on zero and near-zero days, fire the thing as one would, and it was wholly inadequate to maintain even a semblance of heat through the long cold nights. Poor Ol' Redmon! It was just such a night that he selected on which to become acquainted with the shack --- our new home. And to renew old ties, forsooth! A miniature snowdrift paralleled the windward margin of the pallet when he stood shivering beside it the next morning while Pa was busily engaged in trying to coax a little extra heat from the reluctant old cookstove.

Ol' Redmon stayed long enough to eat --- yes, he did! --- and left --- almost immediately. He headed south! Was Pa right? Maybe he was a far south Mississippi man --- and wished he was there. We never saw him again. Nor did we again hear of him.

"Well," Ma said, "it was worth it!"

I supposed she knew what she meant. I didn't --- then.

GRANT HENDERSON



ed-"Ol' Redmon" reminds us of other early itinerants - the hungry hobo; the umbrella man; the Italian with his plaster-of-paris figurines; the junk man with his familiar chant - ANY RAGS - ANY IRON! Then too, there was the roving photographer - who was only too glad to snap the younger fry as they played in the yard - his reception when he returned with the proofs was another matter - particularly if mother was distraught over other earthly matters or disliked peddlers generally. They are all gone, these knights of the road! Today its - AVON CALLING!



## PARTICIPANTS IN WARS

A person gains the status of a "veteran" by entrance upon active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and later separation therefrom. The number of participants and deaths in service during all wars, and the Post-Korean Conflict period, as of June 30, 1969, are as follows:

### REVOLUTION (1775-1784)

Participants.....290,000  
Deaths in service.....4,000  
Last veteran died.....4/5/1869

### WAR OF 1812 (1812-1815)

Participants.....287,000  
Deaths in service.....2,000  
Last veteran died 5/13/05

### MEXICAN WAR (1846-1848)

Participants.....79,000  
Deaths in service.....13,000  
Last veteran died.....9/3/29

### CIVIL WAR (1861-65) Union Forces

Participants.....2,213,000  
Deaths in service.....364,000  
Last veteran died.....9/2/56

### INDIAN WARS (APPROX.1817-1898)

Participants.....106,000  
Deaths in service.....1,000  
Living veterans.....2

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898-1902)

Participants.....392,000  
Deaths in service.....11,000  
Living veterans.....6,000

### WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)

Participants.....4,744,000  
Deaths in service.....116,000  
Living veterans.....1,647,000

### WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

Participants.....16,535,000  
Deaths in service.....406,000  
Living veterans.....14,592,000

### KOREAN CONFLICT (1950-1955)

Participants.....6,807,000  
Deaths in service.....55,000  
Living veterans.....5,847,000

### POST-KOREAN CONFLICT (Service between 1/31/55-8/5/64)

Participants.....3,195,000  
Deaths in service.....20,000  
Living veterans.....3,134,000

### VIETNAM ERA (Active duty after 8/4/64)

Participants.....6,705,000  
Deaths in service.....76,000  
Living veterans.....3,169,000

### TOTAL THROUGH JUNE 30, 1969

Participants.....41,353,000  
Deaths in service.....1,068,000  
Living veterans.....26,925,000

## VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS ON COMPENSATION AND PENSION ROLLS

Veterans.....3,160,106  
Widows.....1,014,816  
Children.....920,927  
Parents.....239,907



## WINTER ON THE FARM IN THE EARLY 1900's

January and February were usually cold, disagreeable months, in southeastern Decatur County, when I was a child on the farm. But, as with most unpleasant things there were compensations, that made the unpleasant part, the least remembered part.

Those months were the time of year that most of the farmers in our neighborhood got up their supply of wood, for the rest of the year. The majority of farms had a piece of timber land that provided this fuel. We did not, but got ours from Grandfather Hickman's timber. "Wood chopping" were in order. Power saws were unheard of. A group of neighbors would congregate at one of the homes for a day of wood chopping. Work went easier and faster - or so it seemed - if there was good fellowship. Sometimes the wives came along to the home and quilted on a quilt, or knotted a comfort, for the hostess, of course, quilting and knotting, was the same as wood chopping, much more enjoyable when shared. Then in late afternoon - after all the various children of the families had come to that home from school - a bounteous supper was served. Baked chicken, dressing, gravy, sometimes noodles or dumplings, baked spare ribs, mashed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, dried corn, dried butter beans, cole slaw, pickles, jellies, fresh ground horseradish, hot yeast biscuits, cottage cheese, chocolate cake and white cake, fruit pies and filling pies, and plenty of steaming hot coffee was the order of the day. The word calorie had not been invented yet!

Usually, once each year a farmer, who was a member of the New Pennington Methodist Church, donated his wood lot, for a wood chopping for the church, and all the men of the church donated a days work. In late afternoon the wood was hauled to the church and "ricked" beside the church, for future use. The New Pennington Church was heated by two big stoves, one on each side of the church. It required much wood, and some time, to get the church warm in cold weather. I remember that L. P. Hart always went an hour or so early to see that the church was warming up.

Sometimes at "quilting bees" after the quilt was finished, if there were several young folks there - of both sex - of marriageable age, they did what was called "shaking the cat". Poor cat! The quilt was spread on the yard, opened out to its full extent, then all the young folks gathered around and lifted the quilt up taunt. A young swain, who had found a cat somewhere on the premises dropped the cat in the center of the quilt, and every one shook the quilt. Of course, the poor cat, scared to death, jumped. The point of all this was, that the cat was supposed to jump over the head of the next person to be married in the community. I well remember being to a quilting bee at Grandma Parmer's - Mrs. Isaac Parmer Sr. - and they shook the cat when the quilt was finished. The cat jumped over our teacher's head - Miss Letta Collicott. All the school children then yelled with great glee - "The cat jumped over teacher's head - the cat jumped over teacher's head". As it turned out the cat made a mistake, for Miss Collicott was not married for some years after that.

Almost every winter, at some time during January and February our church had its revival meetings. The farmers were not busy, and even though the nights usually were cold, and many times deep snows, the families got to the services. My father used to take us, and his sister's family - Mrs. Isaac Parmer, Jr. in a bob sled with our team - when snow lay deep on the ground. That was great fun. We heated rocks, lighted



lanterns, and put them under horse blankets in the bed of the sled. We sat on straw, covered ourselves with the horse blankets and were snug and warm. When we got to church the blankets were put on the horses - when we started home we had warm blankets - if a bit smelly - to cover us up. My trips and my cousins trips were usually limited to Friday nights because of school. As I recall there was no Saturday night services. These meetings would last three or four weeks - I suppose depending on how many sinners the minister thought was in the community.

During this time the minister boarded around with the members of the church. I recall one minister who was at our home frequently, would not eat supper before the service, so when my parents and the minister returned after service, mother had to prepare a supper for him. Some winters, during the revivals, the members would have a surprise "pound party" for the minister. Especially, if he were well liked! Each family brought sacks or cans of food, to add to the minister's family larder. They got little enough pay, in those days and many long hard days. Our New Pennington Minister served Napoleon, Salem, Middle Branch, one time New Point, as well as Batesville. Long cold hours of travel for them in the winter.

For several winters some families in our community got together about every other Saturday night, at one home or another. The host and hostess served the refreshments. Usually cake, pies, cookies, and plenty of coffee. The evenings were spent in talk, music and singing. Sometimes the ladies took their sewing or knitting. My father and Ed Hart usually took their violins. The children got together and played games. I recall that Clyde Parmer frequently went and took his graphophone - and what a wonder and a beauty it was, with its morning glory horn. It was the only graphophone in the neighborhood, and much enjoyed by every one.

Of the families who comprised this group, I remember Gus Sieberts, Logan Alexanders, L. P. Harts, Wesley Yorks, Ed Harts, Frank Harts and my parents, Ambrose Hickmans. There may have been others. Those get-togethers on Saturday nights were much enjoyed, and helped pass away, an otherwise long, cold, lonely winter evening.

In some areas, "spelling bees" were held but I do not recall one in our community. I do recall that the "young folks" sometimes had skating parties, coasting parties, bob-sled rides, and some times met at a home for a "taffy pull". Candy was made from sorghum molasses, and two people - usually of opposite sex - pulled and pulled the candy until it was a rich golden color. Then it was snipped into small pieces, and set aside to harden. Pop corn balls were frequently made with sorghum molasses, as well as the taffy.

So with wood chopping, quilting bees, revival meetings, pound parties, neighbors gathering on Saturday nights, and young peoples activities, January and February were gone before we realized it. Then with March it was time to get busy with spring work.

The "Generation Gap" then was about as wide as the length of the peach tree twig that my mother kept handy, to keep a little girl in line.



The "Establishment" was there, without a doubt, loving us, and directing our generation. Lucky us!

ANNA LEE LINVILLE  
Lexington, Virginia  
January 30, 1970

ed - A good story with clever definitions of two expressions very much in the news today - "the generation gap" and "the establishment".



## THE 11th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Held December 6th, 1969 in the Fellowship room of the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Indiana, where the ladies of the church served an excellent dinner.

Evergreens cut by Mr. Charles Walls on the Russell Powner farm along with the beautiful center pieces loaned to us by Harold Carney created a splendid Holiday atmosphere.

Vice President Charles Osborn's arrangement of old pictures of Decatur County people and places was most entertaining and attracted much attention.

Seldom has any audience been more thoroughly and completely entertained than we were by Mr. Robert Gartin's great speech on, "An Influence Called Indiana".

Mr. Gartin's knowledge of the Hoosier State and the people who made Indiana history is amazing. His recall of places and events and the names of Statesmen, actors, inventors, musicians, poets and writers made all of us a little prouder that we too are a small part of Indiana.

We are indebted to Mr. William Hunter for arranging the program and to Mrs. Hunter for her splendid presentation of the speaker.

Our business session was brief but efficient and included:

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the preceding meeting. Mrs. Dorothy Doles, Secretary.
2. Miss Alpha Thackery's treasurer's report and its acceptance.
3. The satisfactory report of the Auditing Committee - Mrs. Dwight Williams and Mr. Raymond Carr.
4. The incorporation of your Historical Society as a non-profit corporation was announced by the president.
5. The report of the nominating committee chairmaned by Mr. Paul Huber, resulted in the re-election of the 1969 officers and the election of two new directors for three year terms: Mrs. H. S. McKee and Mr. Walter B. Lowe.

W. F. McCardle



THE ARCHIVES- Mr. Smiley Fowler, long time member, author and dean of the local press has contributed the following books to our growing library. We are glad to acknowledge them as follows:

THE 1937 TOWER TREE

ILLUSTRATED SOUVENIR  
OF GREENSBURG FOR 1894

HELP! HELP! Mrs. Lida Faye James, 5605 Chariton Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90056 seeks information about ancestors of her grandmother, who was Ann Eliza Hice, born November 22, 1869 at Forest Hill. Other family names are Thomas, Logan and Graham.... Charles L. Blockson, Box 681, Norristown, Pa., 19404 requests information on the "underground railroad" as related to Decatur County.

WE REPEAT- Membership is open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*        C O R O N A C H        \*

\*        Mrs. Elma Allen        \*

Mr. Elmer Badgley

\*        Mrs. Floy Batterton        \*

Mr. Gerald Kelsch

\*        Mr. Henry Kluemper        \*

Mrs. Homer Meek

\*\*\*\*\*



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 43

Greensburg, Indiana

May 2, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Paul Roszell  
Carl L. Clark  
Mrs. Carl L. Clark  
Miss Mary Lou Linville  
Mrs. Helen Hopkins Blemker  
Eugene, Oregon  
Mrs. Sylvia Bird Tiernan - Indpls.  
Mrs. Minnie Harding Phillips -  
Indpls. 623

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon,  
May 17, 1970 at 2:30 P.M.

PLACE: R.E.M.C. Auditorium  
SR 3-46 West

PROGRAM: The 1959 Centennial Film -  
"THE GREENSBURG STORY -  
OF THIS BE PROUD".

Business Meeting

Pickin' Greens

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Let others go a hikin' or a  
paintin' rural scenes,  
I'll get up close to nature while  
I'm out a pickin' greens.  
I'll find vitamins and iron,  
a plenty and to spare,  
In dandelion and sour dock-come  
and get your share,  
Hen pepper and wild lettuce and a  
patch of watercress  
A-growin' in the meadow, are  
callin' me I guess,  
For Ima-gettin' restless-where's  
my basket and my knife?  
I'll roam about and pick a mess-  
Oh, boy, this is the life!

Ruth Williams Bright

PLAN TO ATTEND!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind  
Rec. Secy...Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

WHEN HAVE YOU HEARD OF?--Pear's----, Mellin's----, Waverly-----.  
The Keely ----, Cascarets, Sapolio, Ingersoll ----,  
Columbia ----, Split Hickory ----, Hayner ----,  
Larkin ----, Gaar-Scott ----, Iver Johnson ----,  
Atlas ----, Conklin ----, Maxwell ----, Post Toasties-----



## HERE AND THERE

COMING EVENTS- The New Point Christian Church will continue to observe its centennial with special services on the following Sundays of this year. They are May 24 - Sept. 27 - Dec. 27th. A centennial memorial booklet is also being compiled..... Napoleon will observe its sesqui-centennial during the period August 14-25 this year.

WE ARE PLEASED - The Indiana History Bulletin for last December carried Anna Lee Linville's story-GATHERING GRASSES- as copied from the August issue of the BULLETIN. Their quote-"It evoked a nice sense of nostalgia". Congratulations Mrs. Linville!

OTHER CENSUS YEARS- Calvin Davis writing in the INDIANA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY for December, has an excellent article on our own center of population as determined by the census of 1890. Do we need to tell you that Mr. Davis is an associate professor of history at Duke University, a member of the Society and a native of Sand Creek Township? He attended his first year of school at Letts, almost within sight of the monument erected there by the CHICAGO HERALD....The title of the article is- THE FREDERICK JACKSON TURNER CENSUS! ITS INDIANA MEMORIAL! In it Mr. Davis pays a tribute to Turner for his thesis that the 1890 census had a special meaning. Our frontier no longer rested on the Potomac- with North and South Dakota, Montana and Washington admitted to the Union in 1889- followed by Idaho and Wyoming the next year- it was Westward! Ho!... Mr. Davis skillfully leaves Turner and goes on to give us a clear cut account of a memorable occasion that occurred Sunday, May 10, 1891 - the dedication of our CENTRE OF POPULATION monument! You will enjoy reading the account.

OUR CEMETERIES--County Cemetery Commissions came into existence in March 1970 - by act of the State Legislature of March 11, 1969. The purpose of the Decatur County Commission is to maintain and restore as much as possible the burial grounds and neglected cemeteries established before 1850. An appeal goes out to public spirited citizens, to landowners, to all who have appreciation for their heritage, to any who have knowledge of the location of these neglected cemeteries in Decatur County- that they help locate these burial grounds before they disappear entirely. Write to-

The Chairman  
County Cemetery Board  
Court House  
Greensburg, Indiana

Many of these cemeteries hold pioneer leaders of our state as well as veterans of every American War including the Revolutionary War. Civic pride and basic citizen respect should prompt us to remedy this condition. More than fifty Revolutionary soldiers graves have been located in Decatur County- there are more to be found. Careful preservation of the inscriptions of the tombstones that are fast disappearing is the first step- in helping to preserve our pioneer history.

Mrs. H. S. McKee



## PLAY BALL!!

Millhousen's first baseball team, first because they were the first to wear uniforms and to travel away from home, came along about 1910 or 1912. Napoleon was an arch rival as were Osgood, Greensburg, Smyrna, New Point and Sardinia. Their manager was George Feldman, Dr. Glass was the umpire and Henry Meier kept score. Mr. Idelwine drove the hack when the team traveled. There were no grandstand seats and no admission was charged- except that someone passed the hat- history does not record his name. There were expenses because Mr. Idelwine had to have five dollars to drive the hack- enough to feed the mules. Their diamond was on the Ben Feldman farm.

C. Holzhaue starred for Napoleon and was much feared by Millhousen pitchers. Henry Oliger and Charley Link, later prominent business men made up the battery for Greensburg. Oliger was the pitcher. New Point in those years, when at home played on Brogan's Field.

Millhousen's greatest triumph was a no-hit game pitched by Clem Scheidler against Napoleon. Also their best batter which is uncommon for a pitcher, he always had the cleanup spot in the lineup. Scheidler later hurt his arm and played third base thereafter. Leo Blankman became the mainstay pitcher- a left hander who ran the Millhousen mill for many years.

The usual lineup - Geo. Feldman l.f.  
Lawrence Blankman r.f.  
Alvin Feldman c.  
Clem Scheidler 3b.  
John Witkemper c.f.  
Dave Fry s.s.  
Matt Scheidler 2b.  
Louis Blankman lb.  
Leo Blankman p.

We like to think that these boys are still playing baseball- on the Elysian Fields of course. For some of us, there was no sport like the amateur baseball of early days- thanks to big Holzhaue of Napoleon; the Blankmans from Millhousen; Oliger and Link of Greensburg; Minning and McKeighan from New Point; Levi and Wagner from Osgood- to name just a few!



Ma didn't like ol' Redmon. I don't know when he first appeared at the Greer place; since we didn't live there very long he had to appear at one time or another that I like to believe that I can remember. But I know that I don't, and I have often wondered why I don't. Why would I forget an earlier visit of the old ex-Confederate soldier who had a habit --- May called it "makin' the rounds" --- of dropping in at more or less periodic intervals? I recall so many other more commonplace things.

Pa liked ol' Redmon. Ma claimed that he liked anyone, though, who would sit and "gas" with him by the hour, especially if it was someone who had been a couple of hundred yards away from home a time or two. He did like to talk, Pa did. "Soundin' the other feller out" he called it, a sort of comparing of notes, more or less.

I suppose Ol' Redmon was a remnant of that which had been not too many years before a considerable number of footloose ex-soldiers of the Civil War period, both Union and Confederate. The one time southern soldier, possibly misplaced by the havoc wrought in his homeland by that war, may have had, perhaps, something that at least resembled a reasonable excuse for taking to the road after the conflict. More than one, I believe we can assume, had no home, in some cases no people, to whom to return. Few ex-Union soldiers, we must suppose, could honestly make that claim. Nevertheless, the blue and gray mingled once more, at peace and in nondescript garb this time, however, and in farflung places. Was there a more basic reason for this love of wanderlust on the part of both, an excuse that served also the ex-Union man?

Pa, I think could understand. He, too, loved the smell of woodsmoke and the open campfire, an inborn taste on his part, however, a way of life that chance, on the other hand, had so suddenly taught thousands of other men to recognize, appreciate, --- and accept. Possibly the seed of discontent lay dormant prior to the war in the hearts of many of these men, a class very likely born with a dislike of responsibility and the labor involved in any quest for something called success by more determined comrades. In the drenching experience of the battlefield the seed, we are constrained to believe, germinated and grew, sparked in the pauses between contests by the contrasting relief of army camp life. Those who responded to the invitation to continue after the war the freedom found beside the campfire and along the road did so with alacrity. And so there were to be seen for many years after the war was over, and scattered throughout the nation, a somewhat ragtag multitude subject, more or less, in their pursuit of the wherewithal by which to subsist, to courage and the whimsicality of chance. As time went by, of course, comrades, one by one, fell by the wayside, perhaps far, far from the battlefields that they once knew.

Yes, Pa liked Ol' Redmon. This didn't mean, though, that he accepted everything that he said as the sterling truth. For one thing, he claimed to have been reared in Virginia. Pa didn't believe



it. Ol' Redmon had all the earmarks, he insisted, of a far south Mississippi man. Pa, it seems, recognized the dialect. However that may be, though, the falsehood, if it was such, detracted in no considerable way from the interesting tales that he could tell, stories, of course, of the way, and episodes of tramp life, though some of these, Pa felt, were subject to doubt. Insignificant details such as these, however, were on the whole ignored; Pa's natural hospitality and his love for an exchange of related experiences as seen from the margin of a comparable viewpoint would not permit him to risk ruffling the feelings of a welcomed guest. So Ol' Redmon was always met with the "glad hand" as far as Pa was concerned --- and by Ma, too, up to the relating of a certain incident in the life of the old ex-soldier. Without argument it may be conceded that he was what at the time was termed a "bum", nothing more, in fact, however, that Ma at first did not emphasize, and she was for a time willing to feed the old transient and, upon occasion, to shape for him a pallet upon the floor for a night.

Pa asked no compensation in the guise of labor for either food or lodging and to expect anything in the way of a material return was a waste of thought. Nor did Ma expect or ask for anything. The most common of grub satisfied Ol' Redmon, and in the Hoosier hinterlands of better than fifty years ago, that was about all that he could expect. He could "down" a bowl of beans and cornbread in very short order, and his dexterity in removing the skins from potatoes boiled "with their jackets on" was amazing to see. But he wasn't always fortunate enough, it appears, to find someone who would feed him and, perhaps, "bed" him for a night entirely free of charge. No explanation is required, I think, in an attempt to clarify the underlying reason for a tramp's preference for women when making an appeal for substance with which to stay, at least momentarily, the pangs of hunger. Members of the fair sex, as a rule, respond more readily to an appeal for sympathy and aid, but if, as occasionally happens, the plea does fail of the desired effect there is less to fear if, in an unguarded moment, the disappointed tramp replies in kind. She isn't likely to try to toss him off the premises bodily, and old Fido, strange as it may seem, too often sees in the unkempt figure a kindred soul. But a man may be, and he frequently is, "a horse of a different color". His heartstrings do not always react favorably to the faltering song of despair.

In those days almost all women, those who did decide to heed a tramp's entreaty, requested therefor, however, a corresponding equivalent and sent him, usually, to the garden in summer, to the woodyard in winter. On the other hand, for a man he may have been asked to pitch hay, cut corn, or dig a ditch. Ol' Redmon had known such experiences. He didn't, though, like them, and wasn't at all above evading them whenever possible. One gathered, perforce, that he possessed an inveterate distaste for any kind of manual labor. And it was this revelation of basic character, revealed in one such tale relating thereto, that dropped him to the bedrock of Ma's



regard for him as a man deserving of sympathy. A lady, by whom he had been requested to do a certain amount of labor in exchange for a hand-out, sent him to the garden to hoe cabbages.

"But I fixed her," Ol' Redmon chortled. "I hoed them dum cabbages off jes' below the top o' the ground. It was to'ards evenin' an' a trifle cool, an' I knowed they wouldn't wilt before I could grab the grub an' git the hell outa there."

I suppose he never went back. And it was with some reluctance, I understand, that Ma, after hearing this tale, again permitted him to make himself at home betimes at the Greer place. But Pa's arguments on his behalf prevailed, I suppose. Anyway he continued to come. And then for the only remembered time I saw him. He followed us to the shack. We had moved in April and it was late in the following December when he made his appearance. Possibly he had lost track of us during the intervening period; though the distance from the Greer place to the shack was not more than a half mile as the crow flies he very probably overlooked for a time the hut so nearly hidden in the edge of the woodland. It was late in the evening and very cold, with a light dry snow shifting here and there ahead of each sudden gust of the bitter wind. He ate with us, of course, and after supper he and Pa talked --- and talked. Ol' Redmon never bothered with asking to spend the night; he merely remained until one was compelled to issue the invitation. Ma got up --- she hadn't wished to sit up and listen to the "old windbag" --- when they did decide finally that it was about time to go to bed, and shaped for him the usual pallet on the floor. The shack at best was little better than a windbreak, perched at each of the four corners on short posts that supported it some inches above the ground, and snow, with free access to the area beneath the floor, frequently found its way up through the wide cracks therein and lay, a thin scum of white "dust", underfoot until swept from sight through the accommodating (?) cracks. An old wood cooking stove used to heat the interior of the shack as best it could was barely sufficient to lift the temperature a few degrees above freezing on zero and near-zero days, fire the thing as one would, and it was wholly inadequate to maintain even a semblance of heat through the long cold nights. Poor Ol' Redmon! It was just such a night that he selected on which to become acquainted with the shack --- our new home. And to renew old ties, forsooth! A miniature snowdrift paralleled the windward margin of the pallet when he stood shivering beside it the next morning while Pa was busily engaged in trying to coax a little extra heat from the reluctant old cookstove.

Ol' Redmon stayed long enough to eat --- yes, he did! --- and left --- almost immediately. He headed south! Was Pa right? Maybe he was a far south Mississippi man --- and wished he was there. We never saw him again. Nor did we again hear of him.

"Well," Ma said, "it was worth it!"

I supposed she knew what she meant. I didn't --- then.

GRANT HENDERSON



ed-"Ol' Redmon" reminds us of other early itinerants - the hungry hobo; the umbrella man; the Italian with his plaster-of-paris figurines; the junk man with his familiar chant - ANY RAGS - ANY IRON! Then too, there was the roving photographer - who was only too glad to snap the younger fry as they played in the yard - his reception when he returned with the proofs was another matter - particularly if mother was distraught over other earthly matters or disliked peddlers generally. They are all gone, these knights of the road! Today its - AVON CALLING!



## PARTICIPANTS IN WARS

A person gains the status of a "veteran" by entrance upon active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States and later separation therefrom. The number of participants and deaths in service during all wars, and the Post-Korean Conflict period, as of June 30, 1969, are as follows:

### REVOLUTION (1775-1784)

Participants.....290,000  
Deaths in service.....4,000  
Last veteran died.....4/5/1869

### WAR OF 1812 (1812-1815)

Participants.....287,000  
Deaths in service.....2,000  
Last veteran died 5/13/05

### MEXICAN WAR (1846-1848)

Participants.....79,000  
Deaths in service.....13,000  
Last veteran died.....9/3/29

### CIVIL WAR (1861-65) Union Forces

Participants.....2,213,000  
Deaths in service.....364,000  
Last veteran died.....9/2/56

### INDIAN WARS (APPROX. 1817-1898)

Participants.....106,000  
Deaths in service.....1,000  
Living veterans.....2

### SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898-1902)

Participants.....392,000  
Deaths in service.....11,000  
Living veterans.....6,000

### WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)

Participants.....4,744,000  
Deaths in service.....116,000  
Living veterans.....1,647,000

### WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

Participants.....16,535,000  
Deaths in service.....406,000  
Living veterans.....14,592,000

### KOREAN CONFLICT (1950-1955)

Participants.....6,807,000  
Deaths in service.....55,000  
Living veterans.....5,847,000

### POST-KOREAN CONFLICT (Service between 1/31/55-8/5/64)

Participants.....3,195,000  
Deaths in service.....20,000  
Living veterans.....3,134,000

### VIETNAM ERA (Active duty after 8/4/64)

Participants.....6,705,000  
Deaths in service.....76,000  
Living veterans.....3,169,000

### TOTAL THROUGH JUNE 30, 1969

Participants.....41,353,000  
Deaths in service.....1,068,000  
Living veterans.....26,925,000

## VETERANS AND DEPENDENTS ON COMPENSATION AND PENSION ROLLS

Veterans.....3,160,106  
Widows.....1,014,816  
Children.....920,927  
Parents.....239,907



## WINTER ON THE FARM IN THE EARLY 1900's

January and February were usually cold, disagreeable months, in southeastern Decatur County, when I was a child on the farm. But, as with most unpleasant things there were compensations, that made the unpleasant part, the least remembered part.

Those months were the time of year that most of the farmers in our neighborhood got up their supply of wood, for the rest of the year. The majority of farms had a piece of timber land that provided this fuel. We did not, but got ours from Grandfather Hickman's timber. "Wood chopping" were in order. Power saws were unheard of. A group of neighbors would congregate at one of the homes for a day of wood chopping. Work went easier and faster - or so it seemed - if there was good fellowship. Sometimes the wives came along to the home and quilted on a quilt, or knotted a comfort, for the hostess, of course, quilting and knotting, was the same as wood chopping, much more enjoyable when shared. Then in late afternoon - after all the various children of the families had come to that home from school - a bounteous supper was served. Baked chicken, dressing, gravy, sometimes noodles or dumplings, baked spare ribs, mashed potatoes, baked sweet potatoes, dried corn, dried butter beans, cole slaw, pickles, jellies, fresh ground horseradish, hot yeast biscuits, cottage cheese, chocolate cake and white cake, fruit pies and filling pies, and plenty of steaming hot coffee was the order of the day. The word calorie had not been invented yet!

Usually, once each year a farmer, who was a member of the New Pennington Methodist Church, donated his wood lot, for a wood chopping for the church, and all the men of the church donated a days work. In late afternoon the wood was hauled to the church and "ricked" beside the church, for future use. The New Pennington Church was heated by two big stoves, one on each side of the church. It required much wood, and some time, to get the church warm in cold weather. I remember that L. P. Hart always went an hour or so early to see that the church was warming up.

Sometimes at "quilting bees" after the quilt was finished, if there were several young folks there - of both sex - of marriageable age, they did what was called "shaking the cat". Poor cat! The quilt was spread on the yard, opened out to its full extent, then all the young folks gathered around and lifted the quilt up taunt. A young swain, who had found a cat somewhere on the premises dropped the cat in the center of the quilt, and every one shook the quilt. Of course, the poor cat, scared to death, jumped. The point of all this was, that the cat was supposed to jump over the head of the next person to be married in the community. I well remember being to a quilting bee at Grandma Parmers - Mrs. Isaac Parmer Sr. - and they shook the cat when the quilt was finished. The cat jumped over our teacher's head - Miss Letta Collicott. All the school children then yelled with great glee - "The cat jumped over teacher's head - the cat jumped over teacher's head". As it turned out the cat made a mistake, for Miss Collicott was not married for some years after that.

Almost every winter, at some time during January and February our church had its revival meetings. The farmers were not busy, and even though the nights usually were cold, and many times deep snows, the families got to the services. My father used to take us, and his sister's family - Mrs. Isaac Parmer, Jr. in a bob sled with our team - when snow lay deep on the ground. That was great fun. We heated rocks, lighted



lanterns, and put them under horse blankets in the bed of the sled. We sat on straw, covered ourselves with the horse blankets and were snug and warm. When we got to church the blankets were put on the horses - when we started home we had warm blankets - if a bit smelly - to cover us up. My trips and my cousins trips were usually limited to Friday nights because of school. As I recall there was no Saturday night services. These meetings would last three or four weeks - I suppose depending on how many sinners the minister thought was in the community.

During this time the minister boarded around with the members of the church. I recall one minister who was at our home frequently, would not eat supper before the service, so when my parents and the minister returned after service, mother had to prepare a supper for him. Some winters, during the revivals, the members would have a surprise "pound party" for the minister. Especially, if he were well liked! Each family brought sacks or cans of food, to add to the minister's family larder. They got little enough pay, in those days and many long hard days. Our New Pennington Minister served Napoleon, Salem, Middle Branch, one time New Point, as well as Batesville. Long cold hours of travel for them in the winter.

For several winters some families in our community got together about every other Saturday night, at one home or another. The host and hostess served the refreshments. Usually cake, pies, cookies, and plenty of coffee. The evenings were spent in talk, music and singing. Sometimes the ladies took their sewing or knitting. My father and Ed Hart usually took their violins. The children got together and played games. I recall that Clyde Parmer frequently went and took his graphophone - and what a wonder and a beauty it was, with its morning glory horn. It was the only graphophone in the neighborhood, and much enjoyed by every one.

Of the families who comprised this group, I remember Gus Sieberts, Logan Alexanders, L. P. Harts, Wesley Yorks, Ed Harts, Frank Harts and my parents, Ambrose Hickmans. There may have been others. Those get-togethers on Saturday nights were much enjoyed, and helped pass away, an otherwise long, cold, lonely winter evening.

In some areas, "spelling bees" were held but I do not recall one in our community. I do recall that the "young folks" sometimes had skating parties, coasting parties, bob-sled rides, and some times met at a home for a "taffy pull". Candy was made from sorghum molasses, and two people - usually of opposite sex - pulled and pulled the candy until it was a rich golden color. Then it was snipped into small pieces, and set aside to harden. Pop corn balls were frequently made with sorghum molasses, as well as the taffy.

So with wood chopping, quilting bees, revival meetings, pound parties, neighbors gathering on Saturday nights, and young peoples activities, January and February were gone before we realized it. Then with March it was time to get busy with spring work.

The "Generation Gap" then was about as wide as the length of the peach tree twig that my mother kept handy, to keep a little girl in line.



The "Establishment" was there, without a doubt, loving us, and directing our generation. Lucky us!

ANNA LEE LINVILLE

Lexington, Virginia

January 30, 1970

ed - A good story with clever definitions of two expressions very much in the news today - "the generation gap" and "the establishment".



## THE 11th ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

Held December 6th, 1969 in the Fellowship room of the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, Indiana, where the ladies of the church served an excellent dinner.

Evergreens cut by Mr. Charles Walls on the Russell Powner farm along with the beautiful center pieces loaned to us by Harold Carney created a splendid Holiday atmosphere.

Vice President Charles Osborn's arrangement of old pictures of Decatur County people and places was most entertaining and attracted much attention.

Seldom has any audience been more thoroughly and completely entertained than we were by Mr. Robert Gartin's great speech on, "An Influence Called Indiana".

Mr. Gartin's knowledge of the Hoosier State and the people who made Indiana history is amazing. His recall of places and events and the names of Statesmen, actors, inventors, musicians, poets and writers made all of us a little prouder that we too are a small part of Indiana.

We are indebted to Mr. William Hunter for arranging the program and to Mrs. Hunter for her splendid presentation of the speaker.

Our business session was brief but efficient and included:

1. The reading and acceptance of the minutes of the preceding meeting. Mrs. Dorothy Doles, Secretary.
2. Miss Alpha Thackery's treasurer's report and its acceptance.
3. The satisfactory report of the Auditing Committee - Mrs. Dwight Williams and Mr. Raymond Carr.
4. The incorporation of your Historical Society as a non-profit corporation was announced by the president.
5. The report of the nominating committee chairmaned by Mr. Paul Huber, resulted in the re-election of the 1969 officers and the election of two new directors for three year terms: Mrs. H. S. McKee and Mr. Walter B. Lowe.

W. F. McCardle



THE ARCHIVES- Mr. Smiley Fowler, long time member, author and dean of the local press has contributed the following books to our growing library. We are glad to acknowledge them as follows:

THE 1937 TOWER TREE

ILLUSTRATED SOUVENIR  
OF GREENSBURG FOR 1894

HELP! HELP! Mrs. Lida Faye James, 5605 Chariton Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90056 seeks information about ancestors of her grandmother, who was Ann Eliza Hice, born November 22, 1869 at Forest Hill. Other family names are Thomas, Logan and Graham.... Charles L. Blockson, Box 681, Norristown, Pa., 19404 requests information on the "underground railroad" as related to Decatur County.

WE REPEAT- Membership is open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* C O R O N A C H \*

\* Mrs. Elma Allen \*

\* Mr. Elmer Badgley \*

\* Mrs. Floy Batterton \*

\* Mr. Gerald Kelsch \*

\* Mr. Henry Kluemper \*

\* Mrs. Homer Meek \*

\* \* \* \* \*



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 44

Greensburg, Indiana

August 17, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Walter Crane  
Mrs. Walter Crane  
Miss Doris Zetterberg  
Mrs. Edna Williams 627

\* \* \* \* \*

OCCASION: Summer meeting

DATE: Sunday afternoon  
August 23, 1970  
2:30 P.M.

PLACE: Decatur County Court  
House, Greensburg,  
Indiana

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P..... Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N.Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec. Secy.....Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

PROGRAM: Judge John W. Goddard  
of the Decatur County  
Circuit Court will speak.  
The various offices will  
be open to acquaint you  
with the workings of our  
county government. It  
isn't often that we have  
this opportunity, so make  
the most of it. Refresh-  
ments too!

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

A PLUG IS A HYDRANT- In the early days of Cincinnati, water mains were made of wood. In case of a fire, it was necessary to dig down to the water line and chop a hole in the wooden main. The excavation filled with water and a bucket brigade passed buckets of water to the scene of the fire. After the fire was put out, a wooden plug was driven into the main to stop the water flow. The location of the "fire plug" was noted and in subsequent emergencies, fire-fighters simply dug a hole where a fire plug was known to exist. Foremen still carry axes equipped with the pointed end originally designed to remove wooden plugs from the water mains. And "fire hydrants" are still frequently referred to as "fire plugs".



### DETERGENT STORY

Johnnie, you DASH down to the store and get a small box of SURF- just enough to TIDE me over till Monday and if there is a good BREEZE the clothes will dry in a JIFFY... VEL the boy RINSO fast, it DUZ seem as if he could remember the brand but his mind went blank. Gerald the grocer tried to CHEER Johnnie up and named several brands but no SOAP - so Gerald suggested he take-home ALL of them. His mother was not provoked at Johnnie - in fact she gave him a BONUS. There isn't much to GAIN unless you try them all. You can add a PUNCH to your wash by PRESOKING IN BIZ. That's all OXYDOL!

T. O. Thomson  
1970

od - Contaminating these detergents! They kill bacteria and destroy the balance of Nature! You can't swim in the water and they kill the fish! Detergents make for television though!

\* \* \* \* \*

THE LAST MEETING- The spring meeting of the Historical Society was held in the R.E.M.C. auditorium on Sunday afternoon, May 17th. The film of the 1959 Greensburg Centennial - THE GREENSBURG STORY-OF THIS BE PROUD was shown. It was explained that the film was never edited, for fear of leaving someone out! Very interesting nevertheless. Mrs. Jane Baldwin served cookies and coffee and a good time was had by all.

\* \* \* \* \*

MEMBERSHIP - Open to everyone having an interest in history and his heritage. The annual dues are \$1.00 each, payable in advance. The fiscal year ends Dec. 31. Please direct all applications and renewals to the Recording Secretary.

\* \* \* \* \*



AN AFFAIR AT ROSSBURG- Last Sunday July 12th. some one hundred-fifty people gathered at the old cemetery to witness the dedication of two ledgers commemorating the lives of pioneers buried there. The ledgers were the brain-child of Jennie Starks McKee - her inspiration, her work and her gift to the community. They are slabs of Vermont granite, weighing more than a half-ton each, six and one-half inches thick, thirty inches wide and six feet in length. They lay flat on a heavy concrete base at a height of twelve inches above the ground. The inscriptions of some five hundred words all documented, are devoted to the lives and migration of Charity Meeker and John Starks, who are buried beneath the memorial. Mrs. McKee is a great grand-daughter of John Starks who was born in 1806 and died in 1889, surviving his wife twenty-two years. The caption on the slabs in each case reads - MEMORIAL TO PIONEERS - and this was the theme of those participating in the dedication. Mr. Keith Loyd, a descendent of pioneer families gave the invocation and Mrs. McKee gave the welcome and a brief history of the cemetery. Mr. Norman Freeland whose roots also go back gave the dedicatory address. The Men's Sextette of the Greensburg Christian Church sang three numbers, closing with "Abide With Me" and the Rev. Larry E. Allen of the New Point Christian Church gave the benediction. Donald Minning, Raymond Carr and James F. Smith helped with the details. Paul H. Huber served as master of ceremonies. For those attending, some as far-away as Veodersburg and Indianapolis - all of whom have close ties - it was a day to be remembered. Added was the setting of this country churchyard - overlooking Salt Creek valley with Bohman's woods as the backdrop - lending its pastoral beauty to the scene. Buried here are seven hundred souls, in bivouac only we like to think, but nevertheless the pioneers that prepared the way. Thank you, Jen McKee as we know you, for this day and for the inspiration. May it lead to better things.

P.H.H.

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS - Anthony Moorman of St. Maurice won a pair of trophies at the annual show of the Pioneer Engineers Club at Rushville recently. Showing his restored Advance Rumely Thresher, he was awarded two firsts for the best restored engine and for the loudest whistle.

DON'T FORGET - The New Point Christian Church Homecoming will be held Sunday, September 27th.



BY - WINIFRED ARMSTRONG  
(Given September, 1966,  
at Parker Pond)  
Graduate of Butler University

IN SCHOOL DAYS

Still sets the school house by the road,  
A ragged beggar sunning,  
Around it still the sumachs grow,  
And blackberry vines are running.

Within the master's desk is seen  
Deep scarred by raps official,  
The warping floor, the battered seats  
Where jack knives carved initials.

The charcoal frescoes on the wall,  
The door's worn sill betraying  
The feet that creeping slow to school  
Went storming out to play.

Long years ago a winter sun  
Shone over it at setting,  
Lit up the western window panes,  
With eaves of icy fretting.

It touched the tangled golden curls,  
Of brown eyes full of grieving,  
Of one who still her steps delayed  
When all the school was leaving.

For near her stood the little boy,  
Her childish favorite singled,  
His cap pulled low upon his brow  
Where pride and shame were mingled.

Pushing the restless feet the snow,  
To right and left he lingered  
While restlessly her tiny hand,  
Her blue checked apron fingered.

He saw her lift her eyes,  
He felt her soft hand sweet caressing  
He heard the tremble of her voice  
As if a fault confessing.



"I'm sorry that I spelt the word,  
I hate to go above you,"  
And then the brown eyes lower fell,  
"You see because I love you."

Still memory to a gray haired man,  
That sweet child's face is showing  
Dear girl the grasses on her grave,  
Have forty years been growing.

He lives to learn in life's hard school,  
How few who pass above him,  
Lament their triumph and his loss,  
Like her because they love him.

This poem by John Greenleaf Whittier tells a sweet story of long ago. The little red schoolhouses have disappeared but, Oh! the many, many happy memories that remain.

Midst all the disadvantages of early pioneer life Education morality and religion were not neglected. When the first white men came they immediately felled trees and built log cabins for homes. A larger log cabin was built; that was the "Meetin' House" or the Church, a smaller log cabin was the school.

This little log school was a quaint place. In one end was the fireplace and in the front a door and a part of a log had been cut out and the opening covered with greased paper, that was the window. A long slanting shelf was built under the window held to the wall by wooden pegs. This was the writing desk and the children stood up to write. There was a puncheon floor of split logs and the long benches on which the children sat were made of split logs with the flat side up and uneven legs on either end. There were no backs on these benches and the children would teeter totter back and forth as they studied or pretended to study. A long bench stood over against the wall and when recess came they would toss their books on it, so when they came in it took a long time to find their books - especially the lazy ones.

Water was carried from the spring in a wooden bucket. A long handle gourd was the dipper. Everyone drank from this dipper, (for there weren't any germs in those days) Ha! There were no school bells on the old log schools, so the teacher would step outside, beat on the side of the school house with a stick and yell, Books! Books! "Books is took up."

There were no pencils or paper so the children wrote on a slate with a slate pencil. When the slate got full of writing and numbers some of the boys would spit on their slate and wipe it off with their coat sleeve. (The sleeves got pretty slick before spring.) The pupils studied out loud and if you weren't studying or pretending, the teacher was after you with a stick.

The subjects taught were Readin', Ritin', and Rithmetic. They used the Old McGuffey's Reader and the Bible was read. Weem's "Life of Washington" was read. They thought Washington's honesty was a good



example for character building - (and I will agree.)

The schools were not graded until about 1885. My mother (Hettie Dixon) was teaching then in Sandcreek Township, Decatur County. The County Superintendent, John Bobbitt, told them to grade the school and some new subjects were added. The teacher was supposed to use all the psychology and common sense she had to get this across. They didn't have grades as we do now as First, Second, Third and Fourth, but in Reading they were in the McGuffey's reader, or in Ray's Arithmetic, and in Spelling they were over to valentine. Physiology was one of the new subjects. She told them at recess that they would have a new subject - Physiology. It was a study of the body, the muscles, the bones, the heart, etc. Some big boys in the back of the room, (bigger than she was) said in low tones "We won't take it and nobody can make us." She pretended not to hear them. That night she went home and worked out the most interesting lesson possible. Some of the neighbors had butchered so she had the kids to bring a hog's heart to school, and they dissected it before the class. She told them all about the workings of the heart and that it was similar to a human heart. The big bad boys sitting in the back of the room were up on their knees in their desks and stretching their necks trying to see. (My mother) the teacher, pretended not to notice them until the class was almost over. She looked back at them and said kindly, "Now you boys go right on with your lessons and don't let us bother you." They listened so attentively and the next day they came and begged to be in the class and they were gladly admitted.

What did they carry their lunch in in those days?

Nowdays kids like to carry their lunch in a paper sack. Many times I have seen them turn down a good warm dinner in the modern cafeteria to munch a cold sandwich and twinkie out of a paper sack. In my day, everyone carried their dinner in a tin bucket. My shiny tin bucket said "Swift's Lard" on the side of it.

In the log school one hundred years ago they carried their dinner in a big woven feed basket. My father told many times how my Grandmother and his older sisters would fix their dinner for six or seven children, for people had large families then. Corn bread, meat, boiled eggs, apples, boiled potatoes, was the menu. The two biggest boys would carry the basket by putting a stick under the handle and one walked on one side and the other on the opposite side. Some times on the way to school they had to set the basket down and have a right good fist fight to work off steam - then go happily on their way to school.

They "sang" Geography in those days. The States and Capitals, The Mississippi River from L. Itasca all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico and mentioned **every** state on either bank. It ended up with "Running south 3600 miles" "Running south 3600 miles" (who could ever forget it?)

They "sang" the Presidents. Did any of you ever sing the Presidents? My Aunt Minta Dixon taught thirty-five years prior to 1910 and I learned the Geography songs from her. Many years after when I would write all day long on Teacher's examination this saved my life for in History questions they would always ask at least two questions about the presidents. For example - Who was the eighth President of the United States? and what happened in his administration? (Right quick who knows? No one knew.)



I could sing Geography in my mind and get those two right.

The states and capitals went like this: Maine, Augusta, is on the Kennebec River, Maine, Augusta, is on the Kennebec River.

Indiana, Indianapolis, is on the White River, Indiana, Indianapolis, is on the White River.

All the states and capitals were sung in this manner.

The Presidents - Tune - Yankee Doodle -

George Washington first president,  
By Adams was succeeded.  
Tom Jefferson was next the choice  
The people's cause he pleaded.

Madison was then called forth  
To give John Bull a pealing,  
James Monroe had all the go,  
In the era of good feeling.

'Twas J. Q. Adams next came in  
and next came Andrew Jackson,  
Who licked John Bull at New Orleans  
With such great satisfaction.

There were several more verses. (This, I think, was really good teaching.

The Teachers were supposed to treat the kids on Christmas, and, of course, everyone was present along with the little brothers and sisters. If he refused, the big boys put him on a rail, rode him down to the creek and ducked him. There was a certain teacher in Sandcreek Township in those early days who came to school on Christmas morning. Already the school house was full of big boys and girls, little boys and girls, and all the little brothers and sisters. (They had lots of them!) They began chanting: Teacher, have you got any treat? He answered meekly - "No". They took him by main force, rode him on a rail down to the creek and they were just ready to put him under. He said, Well, kids, I've got some candy. They went back to the school house, got some candy, and went happily home.

Strict rules were laid down and the rod was used freely. My mother said, as a little girl, when she went to school they were supposed to go up to the teacher, bow, and say very politely, "Good morning, Mr. Brown." (Good training, I would say.) "Spare the rod and spoil the child" was their motto.

Teachers pay was very small in those days. Seventy-five cents a day and school began at sunrise and ended at sunset. The more ambitious kids came early so they could recite first. The lazier ones came poking in much later. The term was three months long. As the years passed the terms were lengthened and the days shortened. The teacher's pay was much better too.



In nearly every school in those days they would run the teacher out. I expect this happened in every log school one hundred years ago or less. The kids thought if they ran the teacher out they wouldn't have to go to school. They couldn't see any sense in having an education, they knew how to hunt, raise corn, and build log cabins.

Where my father went to school (Beech Grove in Sandcreek Township) they had run two teachers out. My grandfather, Robert Armstrong, was trustee for two terms. A young man came to him who had dark eyes and a stern look on his face. He hired him. This is what he said to him, "You have school at any cost." (In other words, kill them if you have to.) Ha!

This young man stood before the school the first day, had them to sit down and this is what he said: "Now we don't have any idiots or half-idiots here and WE ARE GOING TO HAVE SCHOOL."

He bluffed them out and they had school; the best they ever had. (I've heard my father tell this story many times.) (Alfred Armstrong).

An old man in Letts years ago told this story: He attended a little log school near Milford in Decatur County, Indiana, one hundred years or more ago. They had run teacher after teacher out. The kids were so bad. Great big boys or men, eighteen and twenty years old, would go to school in the fall for no other reason than to run the teacher out. The Trustee hired a young man who was short and stocky. The first day they pushed and shoved, laughed and hollered, and fist fights were numerous. The young man just walked around and seemingly paid no attention. When school took up he told them to go outside and line up in front of the door. They went outside but they didn't line up. They pushed and shoved, laughed loudly, and two boys got in a fight; they thought they would get rid of him the first day. The teacher stepped to the door, jerked a revolver out of his pocket, pointed it at them and said: "Now you line up right." The fight stopped, everyone got in line, not a sound could be heard, and they marched in the school room like soldiers. They had school that winter.

The teachers had little preparation for teaching in those days. If they wanted to teach they went to one of the board members (there were three) in the district. The examiner asked him a few questions which he answered orally or on a slate. The examiner had little education too. Dr. Moody was a member of the board in Greensburg. A lady came to ask for a school. He asked her a few questions, then wrote: "This certifies that Miss Doe can read a little and write a little." Signed, Dr. Moody. That was her license.

The teacher boarded round with the patrons who wanted their children to have an education. This was called the subscription school. These patrons paid the teacher and many times they were so poor that they paid them with corn meal, meat, potatoes and whiskey. (How would you like that, you present day teachers?)

In 1833 a Seminary was built in Greensburg. In 1857 we had the first free schools. That means the schools were kept up and teachers were paid by taxing all the people.

The first settlers settled in Fugit Township, Decatur County, in 1819.



Springhill was a thriving town in early days and the first store was there.

The first school in the County was three-fourths of a mile east of Clarksburg.

In 1862 the first school was built in Greensburg. This was during the Civil War, as you know. A man fell from the scaffold and was killed. They said his ghost roamed around down in the basement. The kids believed this and when someone was bad the teacher threatened to send him to the basement....It worked!

1871 - 1877 - First County Superintendent was Will Powner.

1881 - 1887 - John Bobbitt was Superintendent.

The ones I remember, Edgar Mendenhall (1909), was a very stern man who scared us to pieces when he came to visit school. 1912, Frank Fields, who had a glass eye. 1918, J. R. Crawley, who was my High School principal and a good one. Others were Paul Alexander, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Moeller, Mr. York, and our present one, Mr. Hayes.

In 1880 there was a College at Hartsville. My mother, (Hettie Dixon Armstrong) attended there. Also, my Aunt Minta Dixon attended there and at Hope Normal School and Butlerville Normal School. It seems strange to have schools so close but that was a long ways to walk or ride horse back and the roads were bad with only a few toll roads. I heard a man telling about riding a bicycle from Michigan down to Hartsville College to attend school. He did janitor work to pay his tuition.

In 1893 the first summer normal was held in Greensburg to improve the teachers.

St. Omer was a thriving little town in the early days. They had a one room school in town and another out in the woods. In 1856 the town secured a graded school of two rooms. Franklin Pierce and Samantha Mann were the teachers. A few weeks after school started a big bad boy hit the teacher over the head with a stick and killed him. (Sounds modern doesn't it?)

In 1860 a flag was flown from the Milford School belfry in honor of Abe Lincoln who had been elected president. Some men climbed up to the belfry and took it down. A flag pole was erected across the street and again the flag floated on the breeze. In the night the pole was cut down and the flag disappeared. It must have run into politics. These men were good men but they failed to comprehend that the flag is the emblem of every party and every creed. Old Glory now flies from every school in our nation and we are glad.

We have the greatest nation in all the world and don't let anyone tell you anything else. There are forces (Communism) that seek to destroy us by starting riots, marches, strikes and anything to confuse us. They are jealous of our freedom and prosperity. Don't let any one run our nation down. A great American Said: "My Country, may she always be right - but right or wrong - MY COUNTRY."



They like to tell jokes on the schoolteacher. They tell about the absent-minded teacher who scratched his pancake and poured molasses down his back.

There was the retired teacher who died and went to Heaven. After she had spent much time hunting up her loved ones and friends and visiting with them, she became sort of weary and said to St. Peter "I'd like to work."

What do you want to do? he asked.

I'd like to teach like I did down in the world.

Alright, you can start school tomorrow.

The first day she went at 10:00 o'clock and got out at 2:00. The second day it was 9:00 o'clock and got out at 3:00. The next day it was 8:00 o'clock and got out at 4:00. She went to St. Peter and complained: "These long hours are getting me down." He said, "Well then, why don't you go down below and see how it is down there?" When she got there she told the old Devil she would like to work. He answered "O.K., what do you want to do?" She said, "I'd like to teach school like I did in the world." The Devil answered, "Tomorrow you can start at 8:00 o'clock." The first day she began at 8:00 o'clock and got off at 4:00, the next day it was 9:00 and off at 3:00 o'clock, the next day 10:00 o'clock and off at 2:00 o'clock. She went to the old Devil and said, "How do you account for this, the hours are so much better down here." This is what he said: "Well, there's no shortage of Teachers down here!"

There was the teacher who crossed the street when the red lights were on. Brakes squaked, horns tooted, the policeman blew his whistle and threw up his hand. She plowed right on across the street. The policeman rushed over to her and shouted: "Say lady, didn't you see me throw up my hand? Don't you know what that means?" "Shucks, yes" she replied, "I've taught school for thirty-five years."

Now I know more about the schools in Sandcreek Township, Decatur County, than anywhere else. For that is where I was born, where I taught for forty-seven years. But you know the story is about the same the county and the nation over. The other night I told the story of Sandcreek Township at Westport Sesquicentennial. Another teacher told the story of Jackson Township. They were so similar. The passing of little red school houses and the centralization into one Township School. As a child in the grades I can remember ten little red school houses and two bigger ones, Letts and Westport. In 1906 the first school, Finley, southwest of Letts, was disbanded and the kids hauled to Letts in horse drawn hack. About 1912 Gaynersville, northeast of Letts, was disbanded and they were hauled to Letts in horse drawn hack driven by Lem Smalley. (They had some good old fights on those hacks.) The hacks were not heated - just side curtains on each side. Two long benches ran full length of the hack. When the driver would give the horses a cut with his whip, the horses gave a lunge and kids fell on the floor. This was fun for the kids for fist fights would start, which kept them warm on the way to school.

About 1914 Beech Grove was hauled to Letts. Now Beech Grove has an interesting story...



Beech Grove stood about half way between Letts and Westport as you go south on State Road 3. When you reach the Sandcreek School sign which points east, turn right on this cross road and travel west just a few yards and there, nestled in a grove of beech trees, stood a little red school house. It was a pretty place. One afternoon the teacher saw a storm approaching. She told the children to run home. They did, since none of them lived far away. In a few minutes the storm struck, taking the entire roof off the building and landing it over in a farmer's field. Bricks fell down around the door and windows. The teacher was trapped but unhurt. After the storm a farmer came along in a wagon drawn by two horses; he heard her cries, came and dug the bricks away from the door and helped her out. The school was then hauled to Letts. The teacher's name was Ruth Johnson from Greensburg.

I began teaching in the fall of 1918 at a little red school house south east of Letts. Forest Hill stood on the hill on the way to Baptist Camp, with big woods on two sides. This was a short time before World War I closed in November. I had all eight grades with thirty-five pupils. I walked to school each day, twelve miles. Taught as hard as I could trying to reach each child. Played with the kids at recess and noon to keep down fights for there were big boys bigger than I was. Lucky for me they were good boys. I walked home at night, helped with chores on a big farm, then went over all my lessons before going to bed. I was so afraid someone would ask me a question I couldn't answer. My salary was \$2.75 a day. I taught the last school here in the spring of 1920, while my mother had taught the first one thirty-five years before.

The first airplane ever seen in Sandcreek Township flew over the fall of 1918. We were all on the play grounds playing ball when we heard a roaring sound. Someone yelled: "An Airplane." We all started running, teacher and all, til we came to a fence. There we stood gazing up into the sky at that "Wonder of Wonders" until it completely disappeared into the wild blue yonder. (Oh, the tall talk that followed!)

We played: Duck on Davey, Stick a Lee Bo, Hide the Whip, Sling Tail, Double Supper, Dare Base, Handy Over, swung on the swinging bridge over Sandcreek. Hide and Go Seek, Jump Rope, ran races, baseball, Jail, and went Snipe Hunting. Those were happy days.

We read, had arithmetic races on the blackboard, had spelling matches where the whole school stood around the wall to see who could spell the longest, history, geography, grammar, physiology, agriculture, and home economics.

On Christmas we had a good program with everybody taking part. A big tree that tipped the ceiling stood up front decorated with strings of popcorn and red berries from the woods, some little horns, bells, and icicles with a big star at the top. Chains made of red and green construction paper and red bells graced the ceiling. We thought the school room was beautiful. Patrons and neighbors came in for the program til the little school was packed. What a wonderful spirit prevailed.

Many times during the year we went to the creek which wasn't far away and skated on the ice. On bad days we played games in the school house and I, the young teacher, enjoyed those games as much as the pupils.



After two years here the school was hauled into Letts. Then I taught at Mapleton, a pretty little country school surrounded by maple trees, one and one-half miles south of my home at center of population monument. They told me this was such a bad school. The second day I paddled the biggest boy in school, Cat, they called him. He could have thrown me out the window but I was so determined he should mind, and he did!

At Mapleton I worked so hard but it was one of the nicest schools I ever had. In October we had a pie supper and people came from everywhere. The auctioneer, Colonel Jessup, and his son, Neal Jessup, sold the pies. If some boy liked a girl real well he would pay any price for her pie. We cleared \$40.00 that night, which was a lot of money for 1920. Co. Jessup told me to come to the door and just look at the cars and a few buggies parked in all directions down the road as far as you could see. People brought coal-oil lanterns and hung around the wall for lights.

The last day of school we went to the woods and picked wild flowers. The cliffs along the creek were just hanging with blue bells and wild columbine. We identified as many wild flowers as we could, sat under the big trees and ate dinner. We identified the trees and someone climbed to the top of a tree and brought down a crow's nest. We were astonished at the beautiful blue eggs. Some caves were along Sandcreek and with the help of a lantern we explored a cave. On the last day, Cat came to me and said I was the best teacher he had ever had. That made me happy.

Mr. McCorkle, the trustee then, said I could have a school at Letts. I thought that would be heaven to have only two grades. Along with all our studies we had spelling matches, arithmetic races, and I taught them some good songs and good poems which they would recite up in front of school. I insisted on good expression and talking so they could be heard. "The Village Blacksmith" by Longfellow, "Trees" by Joyce Kilmer, and "I Saw God Wash the World" by Stedger, were a few of them. They learned to love poetry. Once a week we had devotions. The children learned the Twenty-third Psalm, The Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments; also, many Bible verses during the year. Then I would tell them a Bible story. You could have heard a pin drop they were so attentive. But you know where there are kids something funny always happens. One little boy always came up in front and stood on one foot, hesitated awhile, then said, "Jesus Wept." After three or four weeks I thought it was time for a change so I said, "Bob, that's a nice verse but will you get a new one next time - a nice long verse?" He answered "Yep."

The next week came. The forty students were breathlessly waiting to see what he would say. He walked up front, hesitated a minute, stood on one foot - I said, "Do you have a new verse today?" "yep". This is what he said. "Jesus wept, Moses slept, and Peter went a fishin'." I thought I wouldn't laugh but that was too much. We all burst forth at once til you could have heard us to the railroad. When I could get straightened up I asked "Bob, why did you say that?" "Eddie told me to." Eddie was his big brother in High School and he was full of the "old nick." He never said that again for he had made us laugh and he was happy.

On Christmas we would go to the big gym. upstairs and the whole school would put on a Christmas program. There wasn't room for the people who came to the program. Those were happy days. There is something of great value in these programs of both humorous and religious nature. The school has lost something wonderful when they fail to take time to celebrate the birthday of our Savior.



One by one all of the little red school houses disappeared and the kids were hauled to Letts since it was our Township School. Our numbers got bigger and bigger - 50, 54, 59 pupils in my room; this took some of the joy out of school.

In 1926 Rodney school, almost on the Marion Township line, Mapleton, southeast of Letts, 1927, 1928 Rockcreek in south end of township, 1925 Harris City in extreme north end, Horace on Clay township line - some went to Burney and others to Letts, and Fredonia south of Westport, was hauled there.

You wonder how the Letts school could hold so many. About 1875 a little two-room school stood on a hill across from our present Baptist Church. On Sundays this school was used for a church. Our Baptist church had its beginning there. The old school was torn down and a new one of two rooms was built in Letts. The bricks were made on my grandfather Armstrong's farm, south of Letts. Three brick kilns were operated on his farm, half way between Letts and Westport, just across from the new high school on State Road 3. Sometime later two more rooms were added, one below and the other upstairs for the High School. In 1911 they raised the roof and added the big gym, a big front hall, office and stairway and a big back stairway to connect the back rooms. We thought this was such a big gymnasium but it wasn't long until they were calling it a cheese box - and that hurt our feelings. In 1918 two big rooms were added in the back, one downstairs and the other upstairs. The downstairs room was my room for twenty-nine years. Now a beautiful modern home stands on this spot built on the foundation of my room. All that's left of that dear school are the lovely big maple trees and the old dressed stone walk - and memories, precious memories.

They had been clamoring for a new centralized school in the center of the Township which would bring two old rivals together, Letts and Westport. Letts would rather beat Westport in baseball and basketball than any other school and vice versa, they would rather beat us. In 1950 we all came together at Sandcreek as one big happy family, and I was proud to be a part of that big family.

Big gym built in 1951 at Sandcreek of brick and cement blocks.

Sandcreek lacked many things that first year. No walks, no gravel on the playground, and the mud was so bad that we kept them in most of the winter, no cafeteria, a room but no equipment. Old desks, blackboards and cupboards were used from the old schools. A big tent was erected out in front and different organizations served dinner. We marched the kids out to dinner at noon, they thought it was fun. Later equipment was bought and the cafeteria started under the competent management of the Home Economics teacher, Mrs. Forrest Stevenson.

In the beginning there were about 497 students, now there are over 700.

The PTA raised money and bought many things. In 1964 the PTA raised over \$1,000.00. Mrs. Robert Ferris was a very efficient president and this money was used to build a breezeway between the school building and the big gym and the new cafeteria. In 1965 the new cafeteria was finished and the old one cut into three class rooms.



Many of our Township schools are over crowded. The little country schools are all gone. Now a movement is on foot to build two new High Schools, one on the North end of the County and the other in the South end. Both on State Road 3.

From time immemorial nature has been kind to Decatur County. Great deposits of limestone, rich farm land, and much timber was found here by our forefathers. We owe a debt of thanks to them who worked so hard to develop these resources that we might enjoy the good things they never had.

Let us hope that we who follow after them will keep Decatur County the most enterprising, most beautiful and truly religious in this great State of Indiana.

William Hershell, our own Indiana poet, gave us these beautiful lines which are so true:

Ain't God good to Indiana  
Ain't he feller, ain't he though.  
Folks don't know just how close  
They are to Eden  
Till they sometimes up and goes  
Huntin' fairer greener pastures  
That they've got right here at home.  
Where the sunshine's in the clover,  
And the honey's in the comb,  
And the ripples on the river  
Just seem to chuckle as they flow.  
Ain't God good to Indiana,  
Ain't he feller, ain't he though.

Ain't God good to Indiana  
Seems as though he's got a way  
Of gettin' me all out of humor  
When I sometimes want to stray;  
And I got that gypsy feelin'  
And I want to find a spot  
Where the clouds ain't quite so reckless  
And the sun ain't quite so hot.  
But I don't stay long I'll tell you  
Till I'm whisperin soft and low  
Ain't God good to Indiana  
Ain't he feller, ain't he though.

They don't have that snug up feeling  
That a mother gives her child  
They don't sooth your soul and body  
With its breezes soft and mild  
They don't know the joys of Heaven  
Have their birthplace right here below.  
Ain't God good to Indiana  
Ain't he feller, ain't he though.



Ain't God good to Indiana  
There may be other places most as fair  
But they don't have that soothin something  
That's in the Hoosier sky and air.  
Ain't God good to Indiana  
Ain't he feller, ain't he though!

ed - This was one of our best programs and we offer  
Miss Armstrong's paper here, particularly for  
those who could not attend at that time.  
Lacking of course is her sparkling wit that  
went with the presentation.  
A spelling bee was held in conjunction and  
"assassin" was the fatal word. The champion  
was Helen Richey Osburn.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 45

Greensburg, Indiana

October 17, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Roy Swango 628

\* \* \*

DECATUR COUNTY DOCTORS THEN!

ADAMS----- W. Goff  
J. W. Parker  
H. B. Wray  
CLIFTY----- Geo. S. Crawford  
W. G. Butler  
CLARKSBURG-- C. Cain  
Chas. M. Beall  
J. L. Smith  
FOREST HILL- W. A. McCoy  
M. C. Vest  
GAYNORSVILLE- J. M. Wood  
GREENSBURG--- Jno. H. Alexander  
C. A. Covert  
Wm. Bracken  
J. B. Bracken  
T. B. Gullifer  
J. Y. Hitt  
S. B. Hitt  
T. Johnston  
S. H. Riley  
J. V. Schofield  
D. L. Scoby  
E. B. Swem  
R. M. Thomas  
O. K. Thomson  
S. Vail Wright  
L. C. Bunker  
LETT'S CORNER- J. T. Clark  
M. H. Williams  
MILLHOUSEN--- F. M. Daily  
NEW POINT---- L. W. D. Jerman  
SARDINIA----- J. H. Riley  
Wm. F. Riley  
B. S. White  
ST. PAUL----- D. J. Ballard  
F. M. Howard  
WAYNESBURG--- Geo. E. Clark  
S. W. Biddenger  
WESTPORT----- J. P. Burroughs  
Wm. Hause  
T. E. F. Miller

OCCASION: Annual Fall Field Trip

PLACE: Oldenburg, Indiana  
Town Hall

DATE: Sunday, October 25, 1970  
2:30 P.M.

HOST: Mr. Gilbert Munchel

Our fall trip will take us to quaint old Oldenburg - the Village of Spires in Franklin County. A walking tour has been planned to cover the nine blocks that comprise the town. Platted by J. Henry Ronnebaum and Henry Plaspohl in 1837, one can readily see the German influence in its architecture and in the early trades of that time. Primarily a walking tour, it is so arranged that one can drive their car if necessary. Mr. Gilbert Munchel a long time resident, will be our host and guide for the tour.

If you do not have transportation, feel free to call President McCardle at 662-5432 and a way will be provided.

IMPORTANT!! BE PREPARED FOR THE TIME CHANGE THAT OCCURS SUNDAY, Oct. 25th.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
Corr. Secy.....Mrs. Van Batterton  
525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind  
Rec. Secy.....Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery



Col. John T. Wilder, Commanding the celebrated Brigade of Mounted Infantry of the Army of the Cumberland, well known for their gallant and constant service, writes the following letter in regard to the rifle.

Greensburg, Ind., November 28th, 1863

Agent Spencer Repeating Rifle Company  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:--Your favor, requesting my opinion concerning your Repeating Rifle came to hand, and in reply I am happy to state, as the result of about eight months constant practice with them, that I believe them to be the best arm for army use that I have seen. My Brigade of Mounted Infantry have repeatedly routed and driven largely superior forces of rebels, in some instances five or six times our number and this result is mainly due to our being armed with the Spencer Repeating Rifle. Since using this gun we have never been driven a single rod by any kind of force or number of the enemy. At Hoover's Gap, in Tennessee, on June 24th, 1863, one of my regiments fairly defeated a rebel brigade of five regiments, they admitted a loss of over five hundred, whilst our loss was forty-seven.

My experience is that no line of men, who come within fifty yards of another force armed with the Spencer Repeating Rifles, can either get away alive, or reach them with a charge, as in either case they are certain to be destroyed by the terrible fire poured into their ranks by cool men thus armed.

My men feel as if it is impossible to be whipped, and the confidence inspired by these arms added to their terrible destructive capacity, fully quadruples the effectiveness of my command.

If the government would expend the large sums now used to induce men to enlist, in arming the men now in the field with this kind of weapon, the rebellion would be, in my opinion, speedily crushed, by the only means that it can be destroyed by, viz: the destruction of the rebel armies, for it is not in human nature to withstand the dreadful effects of a well directed fire from men thus armed. The gun has been put to the severest tests this past summer, and fully sustains all the claims made for it.

I believe that the ammunition used is the cheapest kind for the service, as it does not wear out in the cartridge boxes and has the quality of being water-proof--the men of my command carry 100 rounds of ammunition in their saddle bags, and in two instances went into a fight immediately after swimming their horses across streams twelve feet deep and it is very rare that a single cartridge fails to fire.

As a sample of their value the contrast in numbers of prisoners lost and taken by my command is a good criterion--our captures since April last number over twenty-eight hundred officers and men--our losses in prisoners for the same period number only six men.

I am sir, very respectfully, your ob't servant,

JOHN T. WILDER  
Col. 17th Ind., Com'g 1st Brig. Mounted Infantry,  
Army of the Cumberland

ed's note - Wilder was the first commander to use  
the basic repeating weapon - this at  
Hoover's Gap, Tenn.

J. O. Buckeridge in LINCOLN'S CHOICE



For your pleasure, here is a copy of a boy's composition written some seventy-five years ago. He does not identify Stipp's Hill by name nor does he spell Derbyshire correctly--but it takes no great stretch of the imagination to say that he spelled it as it is pronounced. It is not at all difficult to follow the boy and his grandfather in their itinerary to Laurel, for the place--names persist to this day. He calls his story--

#### SUMMER MEMORIES

Although my life has been a short and uneventful one, I have had some very pleasant times. Among these my summer vacation of three years ago is most prominent in my mind. Its pleasures are remembered, its sorrows are forgotten. And if at that time I suffered any inconvenience from wind or rain, heat or cold it has escaped my memory. My duties were very light for we burned gas and had no garden. I had an agreeable chum (Cliff Rudolph) and every morning's Sun brought us a new day to be enjoyed.

Of course a boy brought up in this part of the country has not as many ways for amusement as one who lives near a lake or river. I have often wished that I might walk out some morning and find Sand Creek a broad and noble stream but as I am no modern Crusoe, when I and my man Friday strolled out we found it the same commonplace shallow creek and the discovery of an ordinary mudturtle was as exciting to us, as the sighting of a whale to many a man, and though its waters are peopled only with minnows and crawfish, there has been many an hour of sport in persuing and capturing them to say nothing of the delights of "The Ole Swimin Hole".

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CARL A. PATTON



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This act to take effect from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

Passed in Council May 19th, 1859

Attest:

R. B. THOMSON, Prest.

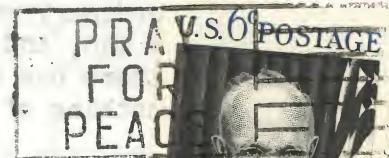
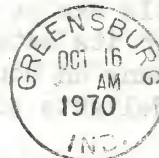
FRANK M. WEADON, City Clerk

\* \* \* \*

YOU ARE IMPORTANT--Enclosed in this issue are two pedigree sheets for husband and wife. Save these, please, until you have received the next issue of the BULLETIN.

\* \* \* \*

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



DWIGHT D.  
EISENHOWER

301

William E. Loucks  
131 West Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Indiana  
47240



THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 45

Greensburg, Indiana

October 17, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Mrs. Roy Swango 628

\* \* \*

DECATUR COUNTY DOCTORS THEN!

ADAMS-----	W. Goff
	J. W. Parker
	H. B. Wray
CLIFTY-----	Geo. S. Crawford
	W. G. Butler
CLARKSBURG--	C. Cain
	Chas. M. Beall
	J. L. Smith
FOREST HILL-	W. A. McCoy
	M. C. Vest
GAYNORSVILLE-	J. M. Wood
GREENSBURG---	Jno. H. Alexander
	C. A. Covert
	Wm. Bracken
	J. B. Bracken
	T. B. Gullifer
	J. Y. Hitt
	S. B. Hitt
	T. Johnston
	S. H. Riley
	J. V. Schofield
	D. L. Scoby
	E. B. Swem
	R. M. Thomas
	O. K. Thomson
	S. Vail Wright
	L. C. Bunker
LETTS CORNER-	J. T. Clark
	M. H. Williams
MILLHOUSEN---	F. M. Daily
NEW POINT----	L. W. D. Jerman
SARDINIA-----	J. H. Riley
	Wm. F. Riley
	B. S. White
ST. PAUL-----	D. J. Ballard
	F. M. Howard
WAYNESBURG---	Geo. E. Clark
	S. W. Biddenger
WESTPORT-----	J. P. Burroughs
	Wm. Hause
	T. E. F. Miller

OCCASION: Annual Fall Field Trip

PLACE: Oldenburg, Indiana  
Town Hall

DATE: Sunday, October 25, 1970  
2:30 P.M.

HOST: Mr. Gilbert Munchel

Our fall trip will take us to quaint old Oldenburg - the Village of Spires in Franklin County. A walking tour has been planned to cover the nine blocks that comprise the town. Platted by J. Henry Ronnebaum and Henry Plaspohl in 1837, one can readily see the German influence in its architecture and in the early trades of that time. Primarily a walking tour, it is so arranged that one can drive their car if necessary. Mr. Gilbert Munchel a long time resident, will be our host and guide for the tour.

If you do not have transportation, feel free to call President McCardle at 662-5432 and a way will be provided.

IMPORTANT!! BE PREPARED FOR THE TIME CHANGE THAT OCCURS SUNDAY, Oct. 25th.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

President.....	W. F. McCardle
1st V.P.....	Mrs. Dan Baldwin
2nd V.P.....	Charles Osburn
Corr. Secy.....	Mrs. Van Batterton
	525 N. Broadway
	Greensburg, Ind
Rec. Secy.....	Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles
	303 E. Central Ave.
	Greensburg, Ind.
Treasurer.....	Miss Alpha Thackery



Col. John T. Wilder, Commanding the celebrated Brigade of Mounted Infantry of the Army of the Cumberland, well known for their gallant and constant service, writes the following letter in regard to the rifle.

Greensburg, Ind., November 28th, 1863

Agent Spencer Repeating Rifle Company  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:--Your favor, requesting my opinion concerning your Repeating Rifle came to hand, and in reply I am happy to state, as the result of about eight months constant practice with them, that I believe them to be the best arm for army use that I have seen. My Brigade of Mounted Infantry have repeatedly routed and driven largely superior forces of rebels, in some instances five or six times our number and this result is mainly due to our being armed with the Spencer Repeating Rifle. Since using this gun we have never been driven a single rod by any kind of force or number of the enemy. At Hoover's Gap, in Tennessee, on June 24th, 1863, one of my regiments fairly defeated a rebel brigade of five regiments, they admitted a loss of over five hundred, whilst our loss was forty-seven.

My experience is that no line of men, who come within fifty yards of another force armed with the Spencer Repeating Rifles, can either get away alive, or reach them with a charge, as in either case they are certain to be destroyed by the terrible fire poured into their ranks by cool men thus armed.

My men feel as if it is impossible to be whipped, and the confidence inspired by these arms added to their terrible destructive capacity, fully quadruples the effectiveness of my command.

If the government would expend the large sums now used to induce men to enlist, in arming the men now in the field with this kind of weapon, the rebellion would be, in my opinion, speedily crushed, by the only means that it can be destroyed by, viz: the destruction of the rebel armies, for it is not in human nature to withstand the dreadful effects of a well directed fire from men thus armed. The gun has been put to the severest tests this past summer, and fully sustains all the claims made for it.

I believe that the ammunition used is the cheapest kind for the service, as it does not wear out in the cartridge boxes and has the quality of being water-proof--the men of my command carry 100 rounds of ammunition in their saddle bags, and in two instances went into a fight immediately after swimming their horses across streams twelve feet deep and it is very rare that a single cartridge fails to fire.

As a sample of their value the contrast in numbers of prisoners lost and taken by my command is a good criterion--our captures since April last number over twenty-eight hundred officers and men--our losses in prisoners for the same period number only six men.

I am sir, very respectfully, your ob't servant,

JOHN T. WILDER  
Col. 17th Ind., Com'g 1st Brig. Mounted Infantry,  
Army of the Cumberland

ed's note - Wilder was the first commander to use  
the basic repeating weapon - this at  
Hoover's Gap, Tenn.

J. O. Buckeridge in LINCOLN'S CHOICE



For your pleasure, here is a copy of a boy's composition written some seventy-five years ago. He does not identify Stipp's Hill by name nor does he spell Derbyshire correctly--but it takes no great stretch of the imagination to say that he spelled it as it is pronounced. It is not at all difficult to follow the boy and his grandfather in their itinerary to Laurel, for the place-names persist to this day. He calls his story--

### SUMMER MEMORIES

Although my life has been a short and uneventful one, I have had some very pleasant times. Among these my summer vacation of three years ago is most prominent in my mind. Its pleasures are remembered, its sorrows are forgotten. And if at that time I suffered any inconvenience from wind or rain, heat or cold it has escaped my memory. My duties were very light for we burned gas and had no garden. I had an agreeable chum (Cliff Rudolph) and every morning's Sun brought us a new day to be enjoyed.

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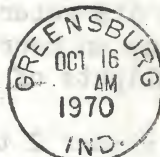
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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



20

John E. Parker  
R. R. 5  
Greensburg, Indiana  
47240



BORN  
WHERE  
WHEN MARRIED

(YOUR FATHER)

BORN  
WHERE  
WHEN MARRIED  
DIED

(YOUR GRANDFATHER)

BORN  
WHERE  
DIED

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(YOUR GRANDMOTHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(YOUR GRANDFATHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME)

BORN  
WHERE  
DIED

(YOUR GRANDMOTHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)



BORN  
WHERE  
WHEN MARRIED

(YOUR FATHER)

BORN  
WHERE  
WHEN MARRIED  
DIED

(MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME)

BORN  
WHERE  
DIED

(YOUR GRANDFATHER)

BORN  
WHERE  
DIED

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(YOUR GRANDMOTHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(YOUR GRANDFATHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(YOUR GRANDMOTHER)

BORN  
WHERE

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)

(GREAT-GRANDFATHER)

(GREAT-GRANDMOTHER)



THE BULLETINTHE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 46

Greensburg, Indiana

November 28, 1970

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dale G. Myers  
Mrs. Dale G. Myers 630

\* \* \*

COMMITTEESArrangements

W. F. McCardle

Audit

Mrs. Dwight Williams  
Raymond Carr

Calling

Miss Gladys Aldrich  
Mrs. Bertha Alexander  
Mrs. C. W. Bartholomew  
Mrs. Roy Beeson  
Mrs. Frank Clark  
Mrs. George Greer  
Mrs. Frank Marlin  
Mrs. Forrest McCardle  
Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
Mrs. Charles Osburn  
Mrs. Pansy Reed  
Mrs. Dorothy Shannon  
Mrs. Delton Shazer  
Miss Florine Tillson  
Miss Marguerite Tillson  
Miss Victoria Woolverton

OCCASION: Twelfth Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election  
of Officers.

SPEAKER: Mr. James P. Mullin

DATE: Saturday night, December  
12th., 1970 at 6:00 P.M.,  
Greensburg Time.

PLACE: Presbyterian Church  
N.E. corner Public Square  
Greensburg, Indiana.  
Entrance on Washington  
Street.

Mr. Mullin is an attorney from  
Brookville, who is currently serving  
as Vice-President of the Indiana  
Library and Historical Board. A  
trustee of Earlham College, he is  
also a past-president of the Frank-  
lin County Historical Society. His  
father before him was an attorney  
and his mother was related to the  
Hazelriggs, an old Decatur County  
family. Mr. Mullin was the featured  
speaker at the annual Kingston  
Tri-family gathering this past  
summer. His subject - "THIS LAND  
IS OURS."

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

Decorations

Dale G. Myers  
Charles Walls

\* \* \* \*

RESERVATIONSDisplay

Mrs. Vivian Batterton  
Miss Martha Samuels  
Grant Henderson

If you have not already been con-  
tacted, please call Mrs. Forrest  
McCardle (662-5432) by Tuesday,  
December 8th. if you plan to attend  
the dinner. Tickets are \$2.00 each,  
payable at the door.

Nominations

Paul H. Huber  
John E. Parker

Program

William H. Hunter



THE LAST MEETING- This was our annual fall field trip and what a delightful October day it was! Approximately seventy-five members and guests made the trek to Oldenburg- some from as far away as Indianapolis, Knightstown, Pendleton, Waldron-old friends and devoted members. Everybody on foot, we were rewarded with a round-the-block narrative of Oldenburg's history. Our host and guide was Gilbert Munchel, a young man born in the village, who knew so much about it- its architecture, its ecclesiastical history and its people. This was one of our fine meetings. The traditional coffee and doughnuts served by Mrs. McCardle and her staff rounded out the social hour....The following copied from a brochure by the Indiana Junior Historical Society is offered here particularly for those members who could not attend. Brief in its content naturally the printed word lacks the sparkle and wit of Mr. Munchel's comments on the tour.

\* \* \* \* \*

\* TOWN OF OLDENBURG \*

- \* First settled 1817 by \*
- William George of Pennsylvania
- \* Town platted 1837 by \*
- J. Henry Ronnebaum and Henry Plaspohl
- \* Named for the Dukedom of Oldenburg \*
- in Germany from whence they came.
- \* First church and school built in 1837. \*
- First Post Office erected 1845.
- \* Town incorporated 1869 \*
- with Ben Flodder
- \* as President of the Town Board. \*
- Cornerstone of Town Hall laid on
- \* Washington's Birthday 1878 \*
- \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*

POINTS OF INTEREST- The 1836 house where Father Rudolph made a first abortive attempt to establish a convent....The old stone Huegel Tavern, with the door lintel bearing the sun and moon; the moon representing the weary traveler arriving tired and thirsty; the sun, his leaving "all lit up"....The casket factory, 1865, where caskets were priced at a dollar a foot....The 1840 Kleinmeyer house, where the shoemaker carried on his trade. John Hunt Morgan's raiders kept him up all night repairing their boots....The Florentine Hoelker home with its beautiful unsupported balcony....The old cradle shop where Edmund Waechter manufactured grain cradles....The store, now owned by George Stenger, which was used originally as a residence and saloon. It was here that Morgan's Raiders drank beer while their horses were being shod at Kessings' blacksmith shop on Main Street....The home of Casper Gaupel, who was known for his beautiful tin work....



### YOUR ANCESTRAL CHART

- (1) Use the revised form.
- (2) Preferably type or print.
- (3) Fill in the form as best you can. Don't be embarrassed by your lack of knowledge of your ancestors. Your name and your parent's names are genealogical information. Your cooperation is a heritage that you will leave your children as well as the recognition of loved ones that have gone before you.
- (4) If your spouse is deceased, we suggest that you prepare a form for him also.
- (5) DON'T PROCRASTINATE!
- (6) Items of interest under "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" are military records, public offices held, professions, occupations, exploits, places of interment, children's names, etc.
- (7) It is the intention of the Society to bind the forms into a permanent public record. Additional forms are available for non-members also.
- (8) Mail to-

THE DECATUR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
323 NORTH BROADWAY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240

\* \* \* \*

### THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1970

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1st V.P.....Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
2nd V.P.....Charles Osburn  
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525 N. Broadway  
Greensburg, Ind  
Rec. Secy.....Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind  
Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery



(57)  
POINTS OF INTEREST-continued

The Peine carriage house with its beautiful tinwork by George Schmidt, son-in-law of Gaupel. In the adjoining house lived Francis Fette, blacksmith, who specialized in the manufacture of sheep and cow bells....The Village Store, with more of Gaupel's fine tin work decorating its exterior; now the store and residence of Gilbert Munchel, it has a decidedly Old World air....The Town Hall, with its stone plaque bearing the inscription-"Eagle Fire Company, 1878"....The old saloon, with the door lintel from the hands of Casper Gaupel, bearing the word "Saloon" in tin. It is undoubtedly the only building in the state so marked....The gambrel-roofed building, now the office of Dr. Paras, but at one time housing a saloon called the "Golden Mama"....The Sisters' Cow Barn, owned by the Franciscan Sisters, an imposing structure and the largest barn in Franklin County....The picturesque stone arch bridge on Water Street....The convent of the Sisters of Saint Francis. ....Koehler's Shrine. Although there are a number of such small and beautiful shrines in the countryside near the town, they are all on private property.

\* \* \* \*

AN EXCHANGE- The editor wishes to announce that the Society is now receiving the following publications on an exchange basis.

YAKIMA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN. This is a quarterly edited by Mrs. Fred E. Carver of Yakima, Washington. The president of the society is Mr. Jack Lines, who has roots in Decatur Co. and is a member of our society. Their bulletin has several contributors.

THE MADISON COUNTY HISTORICAL GAZETTE is published ten times per year by the Madison County (Indiana) Historical Society. Mr. Howard I. Eldon is the editor. This publication too has several contributors.

\* \* \* \*

BE AN EARLY BIRD! Save postage by paying your 1971 membership fee at the dinner meeting. Annual dues are still one dollar!

NEW POLICY- Your annual membership card will be mailed along with your 1971 statement. The purpose is to save postage. If and when you become delinquent - you will be reminded by the tell-tale star.



# NEWSLETTER OF THE INDIANA PLACE-NAME SURVEY

Editors:

Ronald L. Baker  
Marvin Carmony

Department of English, Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

Vol. I

Summer 1971

No. 1

1. THE NEWSLETTER: The Newsletter of the Indiana Place-Name Survey will be issued semiannually, in the summer and winter. It is designed to report progress on the Indiana Place-Name Survey and to publish notes and news dealing with place names. Subscribers to Indiana Names will receive the Newsletter free of charge; others may receive the Newsletter on request. If you do not subscribe to Indiana Names but want to receive future issues of the Newsletter, let us know. Or, better still, use the appended order form and subscribe to Indiana Names.

Readers are invited to send notes, clippings, and news about place names to us for possible publication in the Newsletter.

2. THE INDIANA PLACE-NAME SURVEY: In 1969 a Committee on Place Names was established within the Department of English at Indiana State University with the ultimate aim of publishing a dictionary of Indiana place names. Now, the Indiana Place-Name Survey is well under way, and we hope to complete the project by 1975.

To reach our goal, though, we still need the help of many volunteers--teachers, local historians, newspaper editors, and others interested in Hoosier place names. Hopefully, in each of Indiana's ninety-two counties we will have a representative who will work with us in researching names in his county. The county representative may choose to serve in a liaison position and furnish the central office at Indiana State University with information on bibliography, origin, variation, pronunciation, etc., of his county's names; or, if he chooses, the county representative could work with us and prepare a complete place-name study of his county. The central office will furnish typographical maps, forms, and instructions to county workers. Anyone interested in helping with the survey of Indiana place names is welcome to volunteer.

Among those who already have volunteered to help with the Indiana survey are Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Mayhill (Henry and Rush Counties), Max Poland (Jefferson County), Charles Blaney (Montgomery County), Jeanne Robinson (Bartholomew County), Kenneth P. McCutchan (Vandeburgh County), and Joanna Gili (Washington County). Research is under way in other counties, too.

Since 1970, the Indiana Place-Name Survey has been cooperating with the Commission for a Survey of Place Names of the United States, sponsored by the American Name Society. The national survey was established in December 1969 and has drawn up plans, procedures, and forms for conducting a survey



of U.S. place names. Mrs. Byrd H. Granger of the University of Arizona is chairman of the national survey, and Ronald L. Baker of Indiana State University is chairman for Indiana in the national survey.

3. INDIANA NAMES: Indiana Names is a semiannual journal devoted to the study of Indiana names and onomastic theory and methodology. The first issue appeared in the spring of 1970, and since then the journal has been well received. The American Name Society Bulletin says, "The articles are excellent." And the first state place-name journal in the United States, Names in South Carolina announces "the impressive beginning of the Indiana journal." A review notice also appeared in the Indiana Magazine of History.

Volume II, Number 2, of Indiana Names is being prepared and will include articles on place-name methodology and terminology by Mrs. Byrd H. Granger and Donald J. Orth. Besides directing the National Place-Name Survey, Mrs. Granger teaches folklore and literature at the University of Arizona. She has published Arizona Place Names (1960), Grand Canyon Place Names (1961), and many articles. Mr. Orth, who is Chief of the Geographic Names Section of the United States Geological Survey in Washington, D. C., also has authored a number of books and articles, including a model study, Dictionary of Alaska Place Names (1967).

4. WORKSHOP IN THE STUDY OF PLACE NAMES: During the First Summer Session, 1972 (June 12-July 18), the Department of English at Indiana State University will offer a Workshop in the Study of Place Names, which may be taken for either undergraduate or graduate credit (two semester hourj) as English 495/595. The workshop will introduce students to the theory and techniques of place-name research in hopes that they will make contributions to the Indiana Place-Name Survey and to the American Name Society's national survey. The workshop will deal with the linguistic, historical, geographical, and folkloristic problems of place names and will provide practice in place-name research through term projects. The workshop also will include a unit on using place names in the classroom. Professors Ronald L. Baker and Marvin Carmony will direct the workshop, and nationally recognized place-name scholars will be invited to assist the directors.

5. THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON INDIANA PLACE NAMES: For the last three years, the Department of English at Indiana State University has sponsored an Annual Conference on Indiana Place Names. At the First Annual Conference in April 1969, papers on conducting a state place-name survey and building a place-name dictionary were presented by E. C. Ehrensperger (Yankton College) and Francis L. Utley (Ohio State University). In April 1970 at the Second Annual Conference W. F. H. Nicholaisen (SUNY. Binghamton) told about the National Place-Name Survey, and Frederic G. Cassidy (University of Wisconsin) lectured on "How to Collect Local Place Names." Linda Dogh (Indiana University), Robert M. Rennick (then of DePauw University), W. Edson Richmond (Indiana University) and Laurence E. Seits (Waubensee Community College) participated in a work group on place names. At the Third Annual Conference in April 1971, Marvin Carmony (Indiana State University) reported on the progress of the Indiana Place-Name Survey, and papers were delivered by Mrs. Byrd H. Granger (University of Arizona) on "Pursuing a Place Name" and Donald J. Orth (U.S. Geological Survey) on "Terminology of Geographical Features in Place-Name Research."



The Fourth Annual Conference on Indiana Place Names will be held at Indiana State University on June 24-25, 1972, in conjunction with the Workshop in the Study of Place Names. Holding the Conference in June will allow students in the Workshop to hear the Conference papers presented by prominent place-name scholars. The program for the Fourth Annual Conference is still in the planning stages, and fifteen-minute papers on Indiana names or on place-name theory and methodology are invited. If you would like to read a paper at the Conference, please let us know right away, and send an abstract or the completed paper to Ronald L. Baker by February 1, 1972.

6. RECENT PUBLICATION: The Department of Geography at Indiana University has just issued its Occasional Publication No. 6, Lake County, Indiana, in Maps, by Daniel F. Dull (1971). Those interested in a cartographic presentation of the history, settlement, population, voting patterns, major industries, and physical features of Lake County will find this publication well worth its price. Send \$1.50 to the Secretary, Department of Geography, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401. Make checks or money orders payable to Indiana University Foundation, Geographical Monograph Series.

7. INDIANA FOLKLORE: Recent issues of Indiana Folklore, journal of the Hoosier Folklore Society, have included articles on Indiana place names. Volume III, Number 1 (1970) includes a long article by Robert M. Rennick, "The Folklore of Place-Naming in Indiana." Volume III, Number 2 (1970) has two articles dealing with place names and their legends: John A. Cutowski, "Traditions of the Devil's Hollows: Relationship Between a Place Name and Its Legends," and Ronald L. Baker, "Legends About Spook Light Hill." Membership in the Hoosier Folklore Society, which includes a subscription to Indiana Folklore, is \$4.00 a year for individuals, \$6.00 a year for institutions, and \$2.00 a year for students. Write: Hoosier Folklore Society, 504 North Fess Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

8. AMERICAN NAME SOCIETY: The American Name Society promotes the study of all kinds of names, including popular, scientific, and commercial nomenclature as well as place names and personal names. The Society publishes a quarterly, Names, currently edited by Conrad M. Rothrauff, State University College, Potsdam, New York. If you are interested in names, you will want to join the Society, receive its publication, and attend its annual meeting, which this year is in Chicago in December. Individual membership is \$7.00 a year, and library membership is \$10.00 a year. Make checks payable to the American Name Society, and send them to Kelsie B. Harder, English Department, The State University College, Potsdam, New York 13676



## INDIANA NAMES

A semiannual journal . . .

dealing with all kinds of Hoosier names and with onomastic theory and methodology. Some articles that have appeared in recent issues of INDIANA NAMES ARE:

W. Edson Richmond, Indiana University, "The Value of the Study of Place Names"

Jerome C. Hixson, DePauw University, "Some Approaches to Indiana Place Names"

Linda Degh, Indiana University, "Importance of Collecting Place-Name Legends in Indiana"

Ronald L. Baker, Indiana State University, "Legends About Lakes Named 'Blue Hole'"

Donald J. Orth, U. S. Geological Survey, "Place Names and Computers: A New Challenge"

Marvin Carmony, Indiana State University, "The Americanization of Terre Haute"

Robert Rennick, University of Kentucky, "Place-Name Derivations Are Not Always What They Seem"

Laurence E. Seits, Waubensee Community College, "Using Maps in Place-Name Research"

Here's what others have said about these articles:

"The articles are excellent." -- American Name Society Bulletin

"... We are pleased to note the impressive beginning of the Indiana journal." -- Names in South Carolina

Subscriptions, \$2.00 yearly for two issues, should be sent to:

INDIANA NAMES  
Department of English  
Indiana State University  
Terre Haute, Indiana 47809

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

I've encloed \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ year(s). Checks and money orders should be made payable to Indiana State University.

The news-letter above is offered in its entirety for whatever it may be worth. To some of us the subject is a fascinating one. Here is an opportunity for those members having a like interest to make a lasting contribution to the history and lore of Decatur County-ed



Indianapolis, Ind.  
January, 1851

Dear Sarah:-

I am writing this on Sunday afternoon, and shall mail it this evening so the stage will be sure to get it early in the morning. They tell me that some places the corduroy roads have sunken and are hardly passable. If neighbor Jones comes by, have him always ask for your mail at the post office. It will probably be two weeks before you get this, but we must appreciate the fact that 30 miles is a long distance in the winter time.

Last night they must have been burning green wood in the tavern as the fire got low and I got pretty cold. But with my woolen underwear, and the shawl you sent me, I fared better than the others. I suspect you are living high on the flock of wild turkeys that was hatched in the brush behind the spring. Don't let George get too far from the cabin, because the wolves are bad when hungry.

Indianapolis is really a big city now. They say 7300 people now live here. Some folks have become so uppish, they have plank walks in front of their houses. The tax problem seems to be calling for the most attention. But as you know, no one has any income only from property, and that seems to be a fair basis. What we are doing, of course, is not permanent but will have to be rewritten every few years to meet changing conditions.

I will say that the constitution should be rewritten every 40 years.

This afternoon we are going down to see the train pull in. It is quite a novelty.

Your loving husband.

This letter with its many interesting facets is from the files of Mrs. Bertha Narwold at Westport. Her grandfather served several terms in the State Legislature from Jackson county. However the writer of the letter, certainly a legislator, lived before the time of her grandfather....Mrs. Narwold herself writes that her arthritis has kept her "pretty busy lately"!!! What a nice way to dismiss her ailment-ed.



## THIS AND THAT

Concord-Cook's Curve- Biddinger's Crossing- Georgetown-  
Oklahoma- Quail Town- Wintersville- Richmond- Rockville-  
Mudsock- Vandalia Road- Steamboat Landing- Dryden's Park-  
Craig- Painter Creek Hill- Wynkoop- Elder's Woods- Ewington  
Giberson's Field- Peanut Hill- Neff's Corner- Tarkeo-  
Wynoose- Tarvia Road- Bracken's Woods- Eureka Quarry-  
Fort Sumter- Madison Road- VonPul's Woods- Clabbertown-  
Hebron Cemetery- are some Decatur County place-names.

\* \* \* \*

The Society wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following  
publications for the archives-

THE HISTORY OF ROSS CEMETERY written and given by Mrs. Ralph  
B. Linville of Lexington, Va.

THE 1882 ATLAS OF DECATUR COUNTY by Richard Morrish  
of LaPorte, Indiana.

Harding's HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA- a reprint  
by Unigraphic, Inc. of Evansville, Indiana

\* \* \* \*

EARLY BIRDS as we call them, pay their membership early  
in the fall for the ensuing year. Miss Helen West of  
Hialeah, Florida is the first EARLY BIRD for 1972.

\* \* \* \*

Fred M. Greguras  
1st. Lt., USMC  
Hq Bn, CSS, MCDEC  
Quantico, Va. 22134

Seeking information on the Enoch McCarty  
family....His son Robert McCarty was  
born in Greensburg January 25, 1822,  
served in the Mexican War and died in  
Nebraska March 22, 1903.

\* \* \* \*

WHY? It was agreed at the last meeting by the members present  
that the editor should include his name in future issues of the  
BULLETIN. It isn't clear to him why this should be a require-  
ment. To be frank, the little "sheet" of which he has done  
forty-eight numbers to date - has fared very well without  
his name emblazoned on the front page. The membership has  
grown and the meetings have been well attended- again with-  
out his name at the mast-head. But comply he will.... But  
no editorials please!

Paul H. Huber  
Editor



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 47

Greensburg, Indiana

March 27, 1971

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

OCCASION: Spring Meeting

Stacey Brant  
Mrs. Marie Goddard  
Harvey Colvin  
Ralph Eward-Ft. Lauderdale,  
Fla.

SPEAKER: Surprise!

DATE: Sunday afternoon  
April 18, 1971  
2:00 P.M. E.S.T.

Oliver Bauer-Indpls.  
Ed Pearson  
Mrs. Ed Pearson  
Mrs. Freida Redmon  
Mrs. Wilma McGee  
Dr. Merlyn E. Borgstedt-  
Orangeburg, S. Carolina

PLACE: St. John's Hall  
720 S. Broadway  
Greensburg, Indiana

Richard Wallpe  
Mrs. Richard Wallpe  
Miss Geneva Risk  
Carl Snedaker  
Mrs. Carl Snedaker  
Mrs. Joseph Grier-Pomona, Calif.  
Mrs. Louise Gordon-Pomona, Calif.  
Mrs. Annelis Schlachter-  
Zurich, Switzerland  
Ralph T. Swegman 650-San Jose,  
Calif.

"He who careth not from whence  
he came, careth little whither  
he goeth."

-Daniel Webster

"The interest in the lives and  
services of our ancestors forms  
no small part of the sentiment  
of patriotism. It is natural,  
generous and unselfish. It is  
not only pardonable, but it is  
our duty to indulge it."

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!

\* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1971

President.....W.F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Charles Osburn  
2nd V.P.....Dale G. Myers  
Corr. Secy.

An old woodsman gave this as the  
best way to catch a porcupine:

"Watch for the slapping tail as you

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale  
710 N. Franklin St.,  
Greensburg, Ind.

dash in and drop a large tub over

Rec. Secy.....Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.

the animal. This will give you some-

Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery

thing to sit on as you plan your  
next move.



### RECENT GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

1. A 11 x 14 photograph taken in the Big Four Ry. switchyard, Greensburg, in 1946. Shown are the tower, coal dock and a locomotive under full steam! A remarkable picture depicting a part of our past-that now is gone! The photograph comes to us, courtesy of J. N. Hartley. Additional prints may be had for \$9.50 each plus Indiana sales tax. Write-

J. N. Hartley's  
Specta-Graphic  
3004 Chippewa Lane  
Muncie, Indiana 47302

2. HICKMAN-MOODY FAMILY HISTORY 1787-1970. This is a 22-page document compiled by Anna Lee Hickman Linville of Lexington, Virginia. Well written, her work has a special appeal for those who knew the family. Twelve of them in the family, they never had a complete family reunion. "Grandfather named the boys, she named the girls" - is but one of the many facets of this delightful and typical tale of an early pioneer Hoosier family.
3. HISTORY OF ROSS CEMETERY. This is a 40-page document also by Anna Lee Linville. If nothing more- the history of this lonely little cemetery has to be a lasting tribute to Mrs. Linville and her forbears who cared enough to keep records. Complete with names and dates, names of the trustees, the original deed and maps- the history is very much - a worthwhile contribution to our collection of memorabilia.
4. ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS OF DECATUR COUNTY - 1882  
W. R. Morrish is the contributor. A native of Decatur County Dick is the publisher of the HERALD-ARGOS of LaPorte, Ind.
5. Smiley Fowler, dean of the Decatur County editors, has contributed the following to our archives-  
  
The original manuscript of his "ANCILLARY"- a narrative poem.  
  
George Cary Eggleston's photograph given to Mr. Fowler by the subject in 1906.  
  
"A BRIEF FOR THE FISH" written by Mr. Fowler. He has long been identified with the Humane Society.  
  
K. OF P. Opera House program for the season 1910-11. Billy Burke was a member of the cast as was our own Jim Withers. Kanouse Auto Co. advertised the E.M.F. car in six styles and the Flanders in four styles of body.



## HARDING'S HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Your Decatur County Historical Society is pleased and proud to announce its sponsorship of the sale of reproductions of the 1915 - Lewis A. Harding's HISTORY OF DECATUR COUNTY, INDIANA.

The demand for the original book is indicated by recent auction prices of over \$50.00 for volumes in rather poor condition to over \$100.00 for those in good condition.

This new book is an exact reproduction, bound in buckram, and complete in every detail of its 1216 printed pages and 67 pages of illustrations.

As well as our county history, it contains many biographical sketches valuable to churches, libraries, schools, homes, genealogists, business men and many groups and individuals.

Please note the attached description and order form.

It will be appreciated if you will send or call in, to any of your society officers, the names of friends or relatives who may be interested in a copy, so that we may send them the indicated letter and order form. We hope to have a good pre-publication sale.

W. F. McCardle  
President

\* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE TETANUS- Si Cornell writing in the CINCINNATI POST from Marjorie Byrnside Burress' book - "IT HAPPENED 'ROUND NORTH BEND" goes on to say-

Take the "Wamsley Mad Stone." A mad stone was a good chunk of rock you boiled in water or milk and applied the result to bites of mad dogs or snakes. William Wamsley brought such a "clear...crystal quartz" stone to the North Bend-Cleves area about 1815. By 1871, this stone was so famous that "three young ladies from Hamilton" were at the Wamsley residence, at \$5 a day, being treated for dog bites. Further, seven more unfortunates were chewed up by this same mutt and all recovered after the boiled stone was placed against their injuries. Marjorie doesn't know what happened to the dog.

note- Mad stones were known in the New Point area the editor avers. Who else has ever heard of a mad stone?



7402 Shelbyville Road  
Indianapolis, Ind. 46259  
Jan. 25, 1971

Mr. Paul H. Huber  
City Engineer  
Greensburg, Indiana

Dear Mr. Huber:

Thank you for your letter commenting on my article on the Acton Camp Ground. In my reading at the State Library I have come across a few references to Gallaudet which was just a post office and station on the Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Chicago Railroad at the Franklin Road crossing. There is still a section of sidewalk on the south side of the tracks that extends parallel to the tracks for perhaps twenty feet. There is no building there.

I read somewhere (but I cannot find a reference in my notes) how for many years a man, in spite of being almost blind, drove a wagon twice a day to Gallaudet to get the milk for Wanamaker, crossing the tracks safely each time.

One of the citizens of Greensburg, Will Cumback, was an active participant at the Acton Camp Ground, having a cottage there in the 1880's, and helping to plan the lecture series they had in 1881.

If I should find any more information on Gallaudet, I will pass it on to you.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia C. Hendricks*  
Sylvia C. Hendricks  
(Mrs. M.L.)

Eds note- The name, Gallaudet, intrigues me. Who else remembers it? General Fitzhugh Lee, a nephew of Robert E. Lee was a featured speaker at Action Camp Ground. William Jennings Bryan was also a headliner.



## HICKMAN (MOODY) FAMILY HISTORY

### I. Introduction

This is a brief history of the Hickman Family. The sources of the material are:

Deeds recorded in the court house at Greensburg, Indiana  
War Department Records.  
Inscriptions on grave stones in the Ross Cemetery,  
Saltcreek Township, Decatur County, Indiana  
The Hickman family Bible  
"Family Record of Our Farmers" by Hobert Parmer  
Newspaper clippings  
Notes, my father, Ambrose Hickman, left me  
"Word of mouth" from Grandmother Hickman, and other  
relatives.

I have carried the line to the 5th generation, where ever I could. The 6th generation has been included twice, both times being when twins appeared in the line. That seemed important to me!

Children dying in infancy are not included in this study, usually there is no recorded information on them.

Do any of you have a copy of Grandmother Hickman's obituary? I do not have. If you do, would you please make a copy and send to me? Also, any other information you may have that I have not included in this history or any correction.

Anna Lee Hickman Linville  
Lexington, Virginia  
January, 1970



## HICKMAN (MOODY) FAMILY HISTORY

1787-1970

John Barton Hickman  
born, near Delaware, Ripley County  
Indiana  
March 27, 1820  
died, Ray Township, Franklin County  
Indiana  
February 6, 1905

John Barton Hickman's father died when John was a young boy. Later his mother (who was a Barton) remarried. With two of her sons, Henry and Jerry, and her new husband, migrated to Illinois. John had opposed his mother's remarriage, and refused to go with the family to Illinois. He lost all contact with them, from then on. His only sister was married and lived in Cincinnati, she, likewise did not go to Illinois. She and John did keep in touch with each other, and Grandmother told me she had visited them once at their farm in Ray Township. If my memory serves me correctly, her given name was Amazette.

Mary Ann Moody  
born, St. Carmel, Ohio  
July 18, 1824  
died, Ray Township, Franklin County,  
Indiana  
July 10, 1909

Grandmother always told me the Moody family originally came from Massachusetts, but Grandmother was born in Ohio. She said all Moodys were related. Some spelled their names Moodey and some Moody--even in closely related families.

The War Department Records show that Joseph Moody--Mary Ann's father--served in the War of 1812 in Captain William Blackburn's Company-Ohio. His service was from August 25, 1812 until March 9, 1813. So the family was in Ohio some years before Mary Ann's birth.

In Mary Ann's early life, her parents with their families, the Parmer family, and a Shouse family all migrated westward to Indiana. This is "word of mouth" information told to me by Grandmother Hickman. The first recorded dates I could find recorded in the Decatur County, Indiana Court House, dealing with the Moody family are:

1. Certificate of entry, James Moody, April 18, 1836.
2. James Moody and wife Rebecca to Joseph Moody and his wife Rebecca, August 18, 1839.

This "Joseph Moody and his wife Rebecca," must have been Mary Ann's parents. In all I found 16 deeds recorded in Decatur County concerning the Moody, Hickman, Parmer, and Ross families, dating from April 18, 1836 to May 11, 1895.



I have found no record of where the Joseph Moody family first settled in Indiana. Grandmother once told me that when she was a girl they lived on the farm, later owned by Isaac Parmer Jr. and his wife, Amazette Hickman.

My father told me that Great-Grandmother Moody in later years owned and lived in a brick house south of New Point. Grandmother's sister Letta married Wilson Ross and they lived there also. Letta died early in her married life. Great-Grandmother then went to live with her daughter Mary Ann Hickman, and she lived with the Hickman family until her death. Both Joseph and Rebecca Parmer Moody are buried in Ross Cemetery.

It is of interest to note that one of Grandmother's brothers was a brick mason. He built the brick house south of New Point, where Rolland Parmer now lives; the brick house farther south, where John Moody and Margaret Ross Moody lived, and the brick house near Cross Roads, where Walter Siebert now lives.

Information as to how John Barton Hickman and Mary Ann Moody met is not definitely known. One of Mary Ann's brothers was a pilot of freight craft on the rivers from Cincinnati to New Orleans. During the time he met a young man from Southern Indiana, engaged in the same occupation--his name was John Barton Hickman. In all probability it was through this brother that John and Mary Ann met. (Grandfather used to tell me tales of New Orleans--the slave market--piles of cotton bales--the beautiful homes along the Mississippi river, facting the river--and the exciting races between boats, to be the first to get their "load" through to New Orleans, ahead of a rival pilot!)

Mary Ann Moody and John Barton Hickman were married on John Barton's twenty-fifth birthday, March 27, 1845. On the first day of May 1845, the young couple left Aurora, Indiana by boat, for Mt. Carroll, Illinois--the name of the town being the same as the town in Ohio which was Mary Ann's birthplace. The climate of northern Illinois did not agree with John, who suffered with asthma, so after three years, on May 1, 1848, they left Mt. Carroll, Illinois, again by boat, to return to Aurora, Indiana.

Very shortly after, they came and settled on the farm in Ray Township, Franklin County, where they lived the rest of their lives. The fact that there were Moody, Parmer and Shouse relatives in that area was, perhaps, the deciding factor in their selection of a home site. Joseph Moody, and his wife Rebecca, Mary Ann's parents, were undoubtedly living in Decatur County then.

Their eldest child was born in Mt. Carroll, Illinois, but the other eleven children were born at the Franklin County homestead.



eds note - The genealogical charts have been omitted. For the sake of clarity the names of the twelve children and signified dates are included here.

Daniel Boone	1846-1913
Rebecca Ann	1848-1850
James Monroe	1850-1922
Azelia	1852-1920
m. John S.C. Davis	
John Quincy Adams	1853-1895
Lafayette	1855-1944
Francis Marion	1857-1931
Jarred	1859-1914
Cassius M. Clay	1861-1904
Oliver P. Morton	1862-1943
Amazette	1865-1937
m. Isaac Parmer, Jr.	
Ambrose E.	1867-1949

Of the twelve children born to this union, eleven reached adulthood, Rebecca Ann, dying in infancy. Grandmother used to tell us, that never one time did she have her eleven children all together--not even for one meal. Daniel, the eldest, was off to the Civil War--Company A, 123rd Indiana Volunteers--before the youngest--Ambrose--was born. Then with the older boys going West, and the oldest daughter married, they never had a complete family reunion.

Had Grandfather lived one month and eighteen days longer, they would have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. After Grandfather's death, Grandmother continued to live on the farm the remainder of her life, active until the last two weeks of her life. Two unmarried sons, Lafayette and Francis, were living at home then. The family homestead and farm has since passed out of the family ownership.

I think a quotation from Grandfather's obituary is of noteworthy interest to his descendents. "John B. Hickman began life, when this country was nearly all woods, a poor man; but by honest toil, and wise economy he managed, with the aid of a faithful and devoted companion, to accumulate a fair share of this world's goods, and to see eleven of their children grow to manhood and womanhood. Rebecca died at the age of two years, and John and Cassius have recently died.

In the death of John B. Hickman, this community has lost a good citizen. He was a man who was honest and upright. In business transactions, his word was considered as good as his note. He was a man of influence among his fellow men. He always tried to keep posted on the affairs of life, ever ready to apply the truth.

In politics he was an enthusiastic Republican, and the last trip he made from home was to cast a vote for Theodore Roosevelt.



In August, 1879 he united with the Christian Church in New Point, Indiana, and died a believer in that faith."

Grandfather and Grandmother are buried in Ross Cemetery, Saltcreek Township, Decatur County, Indiana. Six of their children are buried there--Lafayette, Rebecca, Francis, Cassius, Amazette and Ambrose.

There is much intermarriage and interrelationship between Moodys, Rosses, Parmers and Shouses. Grandmother always said when she was young that the Moodys, Rosses, Parmers, Shouses, and Harts were all the families in that area, so intermarriage was a natural result. Grandfather was about the only "stranger."

A Moody brother and sister married a Parmer brother and sister. Joseph Moody and Rebecca Parmer were Grandmother's parents. This is shown in Chart II.

Joseph Parmer married Ruth Moody. Their descendents are briefly shown in Chart I. This is included because of the children of Amazette Hickman, who married Isaac Parmer Jr. Isaac Parmer Sr. married Clarissa Shouse. Both were first cousins of Mary Ann Hickman, Isaac being a double first cousin, and Isaac and Clarissa were first cousins to each other. Accurate relationships were hard to determine.

My father, Ambrose Hickman, left brief notes about the family which I will now include.

"After coming home from the Civil War, Daniel went to Uncle Jim Moody's family in Missouri. After a stay of some time there he went to Chicago, where he learned the plumbing and steam fitting trade. From there he went to Kansas City and worked at his trade. Later on, for years he was superintendent of the heating plant for the Soldiers Orphans' Home in Olathe, Kansas. Later he returned to Kansas City, Kansas where he bought a home at 1214 Tauromee Avenue, where he and his wife lived until his death. He established his own steam heating business and did contract work. He and his wife Becky had no children, but gave a home to Brother John's children for various lengths of time. Jarred also made his home with Dan at one time. I was 15 years old before I ever saw Dan. He came back on a visit and brought me a violin, which I still own and cherish. He was living in Chicago at that time.

Jim married a neighbor girl, Minerva Anderson. They went to house keeping in a log cabin on the edge of our farm, less than a quarter of a mile north of the old home. Toss was born there. My sister Am and I thought Toss was "it." In the fall of 1879 Jim and family and the Andersons, and three other families, left Indiana in covered wagons, to make their fortunes in the West. Am and I grieved to see Toss go. We said we would never see him again. We did, a good many years later. After a good many months, Jim and family settled in Rooks County, Kansas. Their daughter Kate was born there. In 1888 Jim and his family left Rooks County



and settled in Boicourt, Linn County, Kansas. At that time Boicourt was a prosperous little mining town. Jim owned a feed and grocery store there for many years. He was always active in politics. After Minerva died Jim went to Kansas City where Toss and Kate were. He had a grocery store there until his death.

I was never with John as much as I was the other boys. In early manhood he went to Knox County, Illinois to work on a farm. He stayed on in Illinois, married, and his children were born there. When he became seriously ill in 1895 he took his family home to Indiana to the old home for 3 months. I was in Kansas then. He died in Illinois and was buried there. His widow and children went to Kansas City to live.

Lafe also went to Knox County, Illinois to work on a farm. He was there two years, and developed what the Doctor called "hip joint disease." He went home to Indiana and was not able to work for about two years. He then bought the Whitten farm just a short distance from home. He farmed this farm for years but always lived at home. He finally sold his farm, and at the death of Mother, he and France bought out the heirs and both lived on the old farm. Lafe never married. In old age he lost his eyesight and went to Anderson, Indiana to live with Evert Parmer. He died in Anderson.

France went to Chicago while Dan was there, and worked at the steam fitting and plumbing trade with Dan. After two years he came home for awhile and then went to Florida with the Borchelt boys. They traveled up and down the St. Johns river and lived in St. Augustine. They were there almost a year. Mother thought it was a mighty unhealthy place and urged France to come home. When he did he took over the farm work. Dad had a saw mill and cut wood and crossties for the railroad, so he was glad to have France do the farming. France always liked horses and raised nice ones, and took several prizes at fairs. After Mother and Father died he and Lafe each owned half of the old homestead and lived there together, each in his own side, until France took sick, then we took him to our house, where he died. He never married.

Jarred was the wanderer. He also went to Chicago and worked with Dan for about two years. Then he decided to work his way west to California. That was a long trip then. He worked in harvest fields and any work he could find to do. I am not sure how long it took him to get there or how long he stayed there, but one day he showed up at Jim's in Boicourt, Kansas. He was there several years and worked for a man named John Gilstrap--who was a wood contractor, and worked in and around Boicourt. Then back to Indiana for a season, but he was not satisfied and returned to Kansas City. Here he worked with Dan for years. Then back to Indiana for about a three years stay, but restless as always he returned to Kansas City. Finally he decided Texas was the place for him, where he went in Texas or how long he stayed I do not know,



but he returned to Kansas City, a very sick man, and only lived a little while. He and Dan died within a few days of each other. Both are buried in Kansas City, Kansas and Jim in Kansas City, Mo. Jarred never married.

Cash went to Mattoon, Illinois and worked on a farm for a year. He returned to Indiana and married Mary Krone. He spent most of his time as a teamster and hauled logs for saw mills. He was like France in his liking of nice horses. Cash was killed by a fast train one snowy night in New Point, Decatur County, Indiana, where he lived at that time. He left his widow and five small children.

Mort and I went to Charleston, Illinois one fall to cut broom corn, until corn shucking time when we went to Gays, Illinois. There we got jobs with Dorsey Fulton on his farm where we worked for \$18 a month, room and board. Hours were from daylight until dark. But they were good to us. After two years I got poison ivy so bad I had to go back home and could not work for four months. I then went to Chicago to work with Dan. He had a contract to demolish some of the buildings in what had been the Chicago Worlds Fair Grounds, and I helped there, and learned the steam fitting and plumbing trade while in Chicago. In the mean while Mort was farming on his own in Illinois. He had married a girl much younger than he was, and a very pretty girl she was. Emma Yocum was her name. Her folks lived at Gays. Mort wrote me a letter that he was moving to Linn County, Kansas and taking his live stock and he wanted me to help him move and farm with him. I went and took his car load of live stock and equipment through for him. It was a long trip then and winter time and I nearly froze. Emma stayed with her family in Gays until we were settled in Kansas. Their oldest child, Clyde William, was born and died in Illinois. In Kansas I met and married Nell Bromley and our only child, Anna Lee, was born there. I developed asthma so bad, we left the farm and moved to Kansas City where I got a job as a steam fitter with the Armour Meat Packing Company. We were there about two years, but my asthma got so bad, and I had a bad attack of pneumonia and too sick to work. We went to Indiana and stayed almost a year with Dad and Mother. In April of 1900 we moved on the farm I still own. I suffered with Asthma for years. Mort left Kansas and went to Falls City, Nebraska. He, Emma, Dorsey, Tossie and Pearl came back to Indiana in the summer of 1903 for a visit. Later he moved to Olympia, Washington. I visited his children there in 1946 but Mort was dead then. He is burried in Washington state.

Azelia married John Davis, and they lived for awhile in a log cabin at Miller's jog. John ran a shingle machine. Big yellow poplar logs were cut into blocks, the length of a shingle. They were ricked in a room and steamed until soft. Then sliced off into shingles with a big knife run by a wheel. Later John bought a farm about two and a half miles south of us, where they lived the rest of their lives.



John was a good provider, and they had a comfortable home. Zelia is buried in Roszburg Cemetery.

Am married Little Ike Parmer, as we all called him, because his father was also Ike. Isaac Sr. built a nice little three room cottage for them, a short distance east of their house. Howard was born here. They lived there about two years and moved to near Enochsburg into a big two story stone house, south of Enochsburg. This was in Ray Township, Franklin County. Effie was born here. I think Ike worked with a saw mill the time he lived there. He had no taste for farming, but had a real talent with machinery. I was away during much of this time. Ike's father bought the farm directly across the road from our old home, and gave it to Ike. He lived there until his death--an early death from cancer. Am was left with six children. Teddie died a few years later--a very likeable little fellow. Lafe, France and I tried to help Am all we could about the farm work. About 1915 Am went to Nebraska where Howard was. Everet, Mabel and Grace went with her. Later they came back and settled in Anderson, Indiana. She died there.

--And that's about it for the Hickman tribe!!

So ends my father's brief history of his immediate family.

Anna Lee Hickman Linville  
Lexington, Virginia  
January, 1970



PIONEER

JOHN M. ROBINSON

Located land Oct. 8, 1820  
Adams Twp. Decatur County, Ind.  
Moved here March 7th, 1821

John M. Robinson

b. Nov. 23-1781 West Va.

d. Apr. 4, 1843 Decatur Co.

buried at Mt. Moriah

in Adams Township, Decatur Co.

Hannah Robinson

b. Aug. 12-1780

d. Jan. 5, 1868 Decatur Co.

buried at Mt. Moriah

Adams Township, Decatur Co.

Four ... Children ...

1. Julia Robinson, born May 31, 1813 attended old Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, as did her brother Wm. James Robinson. The brother and sister both taught at Franklin College in the years 1840 to 1843. Neither married. After the death of the father 1843, the two returned to their home in Adams Township.

Julia Robinson died Sept. 7-1897.  
burial place unknown ?

2. William James Robinson born Apr. 23-1815, attended Miami University at Oxford Ohio. On June 5-1834, Mr. Robinson was on a committee, meeting in Indianapolis to organize a "needed college".  
On Jan. 14-1835, was on the Board of Decisions, in Indianapolis to issue subscription papers for the location of the college at one of "four different places,- Indianapolis, Franklin, St. Omer and at Mr. W. J. Robinson's place, the last two places both situated in Decatur County, near the present town of Adams". On June 24-1835 the board agreed unanimously on the site and name - "Indiana Baptist Manual Labor Institute" of Franklin, Johnson County, Ind.

William James Robinson taught in Franklin College when it opened its doors as an "Academy" on November 25-1840. He and his sister Julia were instructors 1841 to 1843.

Mr. Wm. James Robinson served as representative in the State Legislature for Rush and Decatur County. He died December 7-1898. burial place unknown. ?

3. Enoch Ferris Robinson, born March 22-1817 died at age of 17 yrs. He died Dec. 3-1830 and is buried at Mt. Moriah, Adams Township.
4. Mary Jane Robinson, born Dec. 17-1818 married Joseph D. Pleak who was born Nov. 27-1822. Their son, William Robinson Pleak was born Nov. 20-1852 was three weeks old when his mother died in December of 1852, consequently he was reared by his grandmother Hannah Robinson who died Jan. 5-1868; he became the favorite nephew of William James Robinson, and at his death inherited the estates of the four heirs of JOHN M. ROBINSON.



John M. Robinson, born Nov. 23, 1781 in Harrison County, Virginia, later West Virginia, brought his family, a wife and children to Decatur County, Indiana on March 7, 1821, and settled on the land he had entered October 8, 1820. He built a homestead in the wilderness, improved and cultivated his land that in the years since has passed to his descendants.

John M. Robinson was an educated man, for the time in which he lived, and kept a careful account of his business which varied and was extensive for a man in pioneer days - probably diversity was necessary in the raw days of pioneer existence. He was engaged in working his land, cutting down the forests, in animal husbandry and its products and he kept a store and careful accounts. He operated a way side Inn and gave lodging to travelers. He organized a school for children in the raw new country as yet not developed in the field of any public education. He seems to have been a justice of the peace or held some such office whose duty it was to hear complaints and to make decisions on smaller dissensions. He served as caretaker for the poor in the St. Omer "Section" "west of the Brookville line." A survey of his day book kept between 1834 and 1839 lists hundreds of names of persons involved in the following activities.

The book lists farming accounts; expenses as overseer for the poor of Adams Township; hiring out lodgings to travelers; boarding whole families passing through; negotiating promissory notes in the St. Omer Section of Decatur County; road receipts to George H. Dunn, Esquire, Indianapolis June 10th 1833; sworn affidavits to notes paid Jan. 22, 1835; expenses for tuition and a trunk for William James Robinson who was a student at Miami College, -Oxford, Ohio; settlement Dec. 25, 1837 with Benjamin Pope - East Boundry of Brookville District; May 18, 1838 partnership accounts; Mr. William James Robinson receipts from the store; notes taken in settlement of the store books; lists 28 names and their accounts; On 13th of November, the great shower of meteors lasting three hours is graphically described; J. M. Robinson accounts in the store and employment of workers; Ezra Lathrop assisted in removal of Joshua Simmons ?; George Mathews account for bill of goods; W. J. Robinson's employers and settlements; G. Mathews to chop 60 cords of wood "by time I come home in April - W. J. Robinson; W. G. Madden for work at the store; days of work lost listing reasons; pasturing out of horses; many travelers listed for April, May, June; Expenditure list molasses, indigo, tin horns, nails, hay, candles, snuffers, powder, lead and soap, carding wool, calf skins, barrels of salt, ax, and Dr. Depew's account; John Spencer employed to work while he is in school; John M. Robinson to James Freeman goods listed; account of scholars and their names attending school of Mrs. Jones beginning on Nov. 4, 1836; Receipts for 1836; Expenditures for 1836; and to whom. On page 110 the pioneers have gone modern and spent 12½ cents for a toothbrush and 26½ for Japan varnish; a county drawing was held at St. Omer on 13th of December 1835. The



boys played tricks on old Dr. Depew. It seems the old doctor made trips to Greensburg wearing his bext pants. In order to have them as much in order as possible, he folded them carefully and laid them on the back of his horse, as he rode into Greensburg. When he went into the bushes beside the road to make himself presentable he found the boys had stolen his pants.

J. S. McKee

eds note- Reading this article one can account  
for the many diversified interests  
of the descendants of John M. Robinson.  
We refer to the Pleak sales held recently.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THOSE ANCESTRAL CHARTS

Some sixty received to date.-----GOOD  
Many have neglected "Remarks".-----BAD  
Others ask for additional copies.-----GOOD  
Non-members welcome to submit a chart.-----GOOD  
Some forms received have addenda attached.-----BAD  
These don't file well. Aren't neat.  
Ask for more parges or write on the back.-----GOOD  
Some three hundred haven't submitted forms.-----VERY BAD  
You may never have a tombstone.-----BAD  
If your chart is on file.-----GOOD

\* \* \* \* \*

If a star \* occurs on your address label,  
it is very likely that you have not paid  
your 1971 dues. If so, you are not in  
good standing!

\* \* \* \* \*

"The future blooms out of the past as a  
rose blossoms from the stem."



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THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 48

Greensburg, Indiana

July 23, 1971

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

George Hoyer - Shelbyville  
Mrs. Leone Lowden - Franklin  
Mrs. Ernest Rehm - St. Paul  
Frank N. Morgan  
Mrs. Frank N. Morgan  
Mrs. Ida L. Pleak  
Mrs. James E. Pleak - Greenfield  
Mrs. Martha Hess - Long Beach  
Calif.  
Miss Elizabeth Dashiell - Indpls.  
Mrs. Henry Henningsen  
Mrs. Alden Westhafer  
Herschel R. Osting  
Mrs. Virginia Wolfe Hannon -  
Indpls.  
Mrs. Christine Fye - Rosolle,  
Illinois  
Mrs. Ollie S. Wanner  
Roy Koenigkramer  
Mrs. Ferd Graf - Indpls.  
Richard Townsend - St. Paul  
Joe Trotter  
Robert Donnell Arnold - Indpls.  
Mrs. Robert D. Musser -  
Circleville, Ohio  
Mrs. James S. Scott - Rushville  
Mrs. W. A. Entsminger - El Paso  
Texas  
Frank W. Braden - Evanston,  
Ill.  
William R. Morrish - Laporte  
Ind.  
Peter Adams - Edina, Minn.  
Mrs. George E. Morton  
Robert M. Henry - New York, N.Y.  
Mrs. Pete Lee - Ft. Myers, Fla.  
Ellis B. Scripture -  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mrs. W. J. Robison - Cedar Rapids  
Iowa  
Robert H. Shelhorn - Indpls.

-682

OCCASION - Summer Meeting

DATE - Friday evening  
July 23, 1971  
7:30 P.M.

PLACE - Auditorium R.E.M.C. Bldg.,  
SR 3-46 West

SPEAKERS - Mrs. Dan Baldwin  
Mr. Dale G. Myers

Mrs. Baldwin has for her subject -  
HISTORICAL SITES IN DECATUR COUNTY  
illustrated with slides.

Mr. Myers will present - BACKGROUND  
HISTORY OF OLD DECATUR COUNTY NEGRO  
FAMILIES.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1971

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Charles Osburn  
2nd V.P.....Dale G. Myers  
Corr. Secy.

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale  
710 N. Franklin St.,  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Rec. Socy...Mrs. Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.  
Treasurer Miss Alpha Thackery

\* \* \* \*

Anybody from Vandalia? If interested  
write

THE FAYETTE COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
Box 351  
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS 62471

Charter Membership.....\$4.00



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

One of our major projects for the year 1971, the reprinting of the Harding's History of Decatur County, is nearing completion and distribution of the new book should get under way very soon, probably just **after** our July 23rd meeting.

The initial sale at the pre-printing cost of \$16.00 amounted to 135 paid for copies. While this number is somewhat less than we anticipated, our printer, Unigraphic, Inc., is confident that an appreciable number of additional books will be in demand at the post-printing price of \$18.50 and we are in complete agreement with him.

The book will make an outstanding Christmas present for relatives and friends and a perfect birthday gift to sons and daughters of Decatur County families.

Your society's copy of Harding's original edition has been sent to Unigraphic for "off-Setting" and will be beautifully rebound and returned to us for our proposed County Museum.

Your President wants to take this opportunity to thank those members, schools, libraries and friends who have subscribed to the new book and also our sincere appreciation expressed for the work done by our members who helped with the sale of it. Especially grateful are we to our Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Doles, who has worked long and hard and devoted much time to keeping the records of the books sold, addressing mailing lists and accounting for the money received. Incidentally, these mailings have produced some 30 new and very welcome members in our Historical Society. We believe that when the book is issued and people can see the outstanding finished product there will be an increased demand for this splendid history of our county. Please remember too, that when the limited extra copies are sold there will be no more.



## THE SPRING MEETING

The program for the April Meeting attracted about 75 members and guests. It was held at the Knights of St. John Hall Sunday, April 18th. Mr. Chas. Osborn, Vice Pres., had asked 6 members to prepare sketches of their pioneer family history in Decatur County.

Speaking on the Armstrongs, Miss Winifred Armstrong gave both serious but sometimes humorous facts about her family and their experiences under early living conditions. They settled around the Westport area. She told of a hot day in 1890 when the monument for the Center of Population of the U.S. was dedicated on her father's farm, and with thousands attending and coming by horse and buggy - all the wells in the neighborhood were pumped dry. (Have you seen this Dec. Co. monument?)

Miss Victoria Woolverton, a descendant of the Talbott and Hendricks families, recalled the fact Col. Thomas Hendricks founded Greensburg in 1821 and that Henry Talbott came at the same time and became the county clerk and served 40 years. The next generation members established an early drug store known as Talbott and Moss later. Present members now living in the County were also listed and both past and present generations have taken part in political activity. Some old record books were also shown.

Miss Suzann Batterton read material on the Pleak family who shortened their Dutch family name after coming to our county in 1822 after they entered 80 acres in Washington Township. The grandmother of Fielden Bleakenstalver, the settler, was a sister of General Wade who married Johann Bleakenstalver who settled near Castletons Fort, now Mt. Sterling, Ky. after coming from Amsterdam Holland in 1750.

This couple, Sibina (nee Virt) and Fielden raised 13 children in a log cabin which the wife helped to build - on the site of the present Ati Morgan stone home. One daughter married Charles Miller and many descendants are still living in our County. The most public figure of Fielden's descendants



was Will R. Fleak as he became a member of our State Legislature. All branches have produced many farmers.

One can see in the Book "Indiana Houses of the Nineteenth Century" a plate of the Fleak brick house built on the Madison Road about 1864 and the family tell of the day the front door lintel was being laid, that a passerby stopped to tell them Lincoln had been shot! A closing by Wm. E. Gladstone was read: "Rely upon it, that the man who does not worthily estimate his own dead forefathers will himself do very little to add credit to or do honor to his country."

The paper by Mrs. Chas. Gilliland (read by Mrs. R. Moeller) stated that Alexander Porter located here in 1822 and various branches were listed. Dr. E. A. Porter of Westport is the senior member of the family and he has 22 direct descendants. (Dr. Porter in his 90's has received some recent honors as Senior practicing physician.

The Meek family history was given by Van P. Batterton, a family member who drew partially on information from a family genealogy written by his mother (Floy Batterton) in 1968. The first branch came in 1820, influenced by one member that walked thru this territory enroute home from Lake Erie, after serving under Adm. Perry. He had also carried Perry's famous message in 1812 to Gen. Wm. Harrison "We have met the enemy and they are ours". Another Meek branch arrived here in 1826. Present members in the county were listed but are outnumbered by Meeks that migrated to Kansas where the family still has farmers and politicians. The family is of Scottish descent, and came to Indiana via the Cumberland Gap, locating at Georgetown, Ky. (One Meek re-union was held at Springhill Church June 5, 1908).

Mrs. Russell E. Powner presented a study she had made of their family which was started when her son James Powner was stationed in England and did some family research. She also displayed their coat of arms. The family immigrated to Penn., then Ohio and by 1800 to Franklin Co., then here.



She listed family members who lived in Jackson Township. She also stated the late Chas. T. Powner from here established a book store in Chicago called the "Store of a Million Books".

\* \* \* \*

HERE AND THERE - Jack Lines writes from 924 S.-16th Ave., Yakima, Washington 98902 that his book - THE SHELHORN FAMILY - goes to press in August. Three hundred pages - mimeographed - bound in a soft cover - it will contain a few pictures and sell for \$7.50. If interested write him before July 31st. The John Shelhorn-Lydia Kemble families of Decatur County are included.

An illustrated article in the Ponca City (Okla) News - dated Monday, April 12, 1971, courtesy of a member, Mrs. Jesma Bellmard, sheds further light on the use of the mad stone in early days. The article and we quote -

Discussing Mad Stone that belonged to their grandfather, the late Martin Tooman, are Kenneth Borden, 215 South Washington, and his cousin, Mariellen Miller, 416 North Sixth. The Mad Stone is over a hundred years old and came from the entrails of a deer shot by Tooman. Tooman was licensed to carry the stone, which was used in rabies cases. Borden recalls that the stone was used on him when he was a little boy to draw the poison from a snakebite. The Mad Stone has not been used for a number of years. Process was to slit skin near the affected area with the tiny scalpel and place the stone on the area. If poison was present the stone would stick, if not, would drop off. Sometimes the stone would stick for several hours.

\* \* \* \*

1971 REUNION OF FAMILIES AND FRIENDS  
of the  
DONNELLS - HAMILTONS - McCOYS

Sunday, August 1, 1971 - 2:30 P.M. (CDT)  
Visiting on the Lawn  
at

Kingston Presbyterian Church (N.E. of Greensburg)  
3: P.M. Guest Speaker - Mrs. John Stewart:  
A Day with the First Family in the White House

PUBLIC INVITED

Bring for exhibit: Any documents with presidential or  
governors signatures.

5:00 P.M. - Basket Supper - (Beverages provided)



## THE MORGAN RAID

### Stirring Scenes Recalled by Prof. C.T. Powner

Prof. Charles T. Powner has spent considerable time in rummaging through old dusty files and records and has accumulated a vast amount of valuable information touching the early history of the county.

The following letter written by the late Judge W.A. Moore to Jesse M. Thomson has been brought to light by Mr. Powner and vividly portrays the stirring scenes enacted in this city thirty-six years ago:

Greensburg, July 14, 1866

Dear Jesse:-If I remember aright I promised you when you started to "the wars" that if anything of interest turned up I would write you. I sit down tonight to make that promise good.

I had a great notion to follow you this morning after you started, but finally concluded to let my better judgment rule and remain at home. So on Saturday morning I hitched "Dick" to the buggy and went up to see my mother. I am afraid if the news of the Morgan raid reaches her she will be as bad as ever again. You will know by this that I missed the excitement on Saturday night and a part on Sunday. About two o'clock Sunday p.m. the news reached me that Morgan was marching on Greensburg and was within two miles of town, I hitched up forthwith and started for the "Seal of war". About three miles this side of home I met a bearer of dispatches coming under the last, who informed me that the city of Greensburg had been captured, and that the women and children were fleeing into the country.

I thought when I got within a few miles of town that I would turn Dick into some remote pasture field where he would escape capture and then make a reconnaissance on foot, and ascertain the real whereabouts of the enemy. When I got to Kingston I was surprised to hear that Morgan was at Newpoint and marching up the railroad. I determined to give him a race, and whipped up expecting to hear the artillery open on our fair city. I soon reached home and found the town safe, that your regiment had just passed through, and that Col. Shryock's had just arrived. I presume there was a terrible excitement here Saturday night from what I can learn; it had partially subsided when I got here.

Hundreds of men were coming from all directions with weapons of every conceivable pattern. I got a gun from Esquire Conde, went down to the courthouse and found headquarters established in the Auditor's office. We laid on our arms Sunday night ready for any emergency. A dispatch came during the night that you were in a fight at Sunman, which produced a great excitement. I presume there were a thousand men here on Monday morning, all of them in for a fight if they could get anything to do with it. The country people began to come Monday morning with provisions by the wagon load for the soldiers. The Treasurer's office is literally crammed with boxes and baskets of eatables which will be sent you to-morrow if needed. This shows that old Decatur has abated none of her zeal in providing for the wants of her soldiers. The Peace Party seems to be as anxious as anybody else about the expulsion of the invaders from our soil, and have come up to the scratch nobly; there are a few exceptions of course. I am glad to see the unanimity of feeling that exists in relation to the raid. If it serves to unite our people and make them more determined to clean the "Rebs" out, it will compensate us fully for the destruction of property which attends these raids.



Business was resumed today which makes things look natural again. Yesterday, Monday, nearly all the business houses were closed the whole day. We miss the boys though. Give my respects to them all, there are so many I can't single them out one by one. Say to Jim Woodfill, however, not to allow himself to yield to the besetments which every soldier has to guard, or be led astray. Your habits are fixed, I believe, so I will not give you the advice.

Very truly yours,  
W.A. MOORE

\* \* \* \*

"MYSTERIOUS ROBBERIES BARED TO LIMELIGHT"  
(Excerpts from Greensburg News, March 6, 1908)

Robber makes confession implicating confederate in most daring hold-up ever perpetuated in this County.

Clears up many mysteries long a puzzle to the Indiana Police.

A young man found at the Moss House livery stable Saturday night and apprehended on an old charge of assault and battery, made a startling confession which cleared up mysterious robberies and depredations that have long been a puzzle to local police. The most daring crime with which he claims to be connected is the hold-up and robbery of the general merchandise store of Ben Ortman at St. Maurice, which occurred on Tuesday night, September 12, 1905. The robbery of the Ortman Store was accomplished with all the intrepidity and shrewdness that might have been plied by the redoubtable Jesse James, of dime store novel fame, and the tracks covering up all clues were so cleverly hidden that the officers were completely baffled. It was in August 1905, the young man says, that his accomplice suggested that they proceed to hold up country stores, and selection fell on the Ortman Store. On the night in question the two drove within two miles of St. Maurice, hid their rig in the woods, and proceeded then on foot. Before entering the store they donned masks which completely concealed their faces and sprang into the storeroom with leveled weapons. The half dozen or so men were covered by the young man, with a stern-voiced command to keep their hands elevated, under penalty of death, while the accomplice went through



the pockets of the victims and the cash drawer of the store, receiving in all \$131.00. In a rig hitched in front of the store they made their escape, later abandoned this for their own rig and, with an audacious and jaunty air, drove back to the scene of the robbery. The dauntlessness of the hold-up, so cleverly committed, was a source of talk for months when the police failed to establish a clue.

The young man also confessed that at earlier dates they had smashed in a window at the Ed Stark's Jewelry Store at New Point and stolen three revolvers of expensive design and some jewelry; and had robbed the Kirby Store of about \$30.00; and had destroyed some farm machinery of a prominent farmer.

The young man, after his remarkable confession, was remanded to jail. On March 27, 1908 he was sentenced to serve two to fourteen years at the Indiana Prison at Michigan City, also disfranchised and fined \$5.00. His alleged partner in crime will be tried later.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



629-630  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
220 East Walnut St.  
Greensburg, Ind. 47240



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 49

Greensburg, Indiana

October 9, 1971

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Mrs. Gordon Springmier  
William G. Hessler 684

\* \* \* \*

HARDING'S HISTORY-

Distribution has been made on all books sold and your Historical Society, in addition to the service rendered, has made a profit of some \$350.00

....The reprint has been successful and all purchasers indicate their pleasure and complete satisfaction with the very fine volume as prepared by Unigraphic, Inc..... The original pre-publication sale amounted to 139 copies and thanks to a small over-print we have sold an additional 14 copies. A few people have been disappointed and there is the possibility that we may have a reprint if we can assure the printer of an additional 50 copies at the post-publication price of \$18.50. We presently have orders for some 10 copies and anyone desiring another book should contact Mrs. Dorothy Doles as soon as possible..... We take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped with the sale, purchase and distribution of this splendid book.

Your President

OCCASION: Annual Fall Field Trip

PLACE: Oldenburg, Indiana  
Town Hall

DATE: Sunday, October 17, 1971  
2:00 P. M.

OUR HOST: Mr. Gilbert Munchel

History repeats itself. Again we go to "quaint old Oldenburg"- this time to visit the convent. Every one remembers the lovely afternoon spent there last year under the guidance of Mr. Munchel. His introduction to a bit of the Old World was something we remember. Our visit this year promises as much. Nuns will conduct groups through the Community which we know as The Convent and Academy of the Sisters of St. Francis - this since 1850.

If you do not have transportation feel free to call Paul H. Huber at 663-6866 and a way will be provided.

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \*

THE SOCIETY'S OFFICERS 1971

President.....W. F. McCardle  
1st V.P.....Charles Osburn  
2nd V.P.....Dale G. Myers  
Corr. Secy.

Mrs. Leonilla Lauderdale  
710 N. Franklin St.,  
Greensburg, Ind.

Rec. Secy.....Dorothy D. Doles  
303 E. Central Ave.  
Greensburg, Ind.

Treasurer.....Miss Alpha Thackery



"GOSH"  
AS RURAL SUBSCRIBER

Well, sir, I thought I'd quit taking  
th' paper

Tu save th' subscription price, you know.  
Not caus I wuz sore et the editors,  
But things on th' farm hev bin slow.

I lost danged nigh all my money  
A dealin in Dollin's, on Hawkins  
en sich,  
A making me poorer, en poorer, en poorer,  
While I reckon it made them buzzards  
rich.

Well, I stood it pretty well for a  
couple uv weeks,

En then I got doggone lonesome  
en blue,  
I lost clean out on all uv th' news.  
En Samantha, my sister, uf course,  
she did too.

I missed the news uv folks a-visitin',  
Uv what wuz lost er found er-for sale.  
Of Dalmbert's and Levenstein's cheap  
prices,  
Or Minear on Magee's big January sale.

I couldn't find out who wuz married,  
Or who an ortomobeel had bunged up.  
I never knew when a traction car wint,  
Er what corn raiser had won the  
last cup.

I didn't know what tu expect uv th'  
weather,  
I didn't know et my old pal was dead.  
I couldn't tell what Rotary hed done,  
Er what that smilin' faced Gosh had sed.

Er th' sick friends I had in th'  
Er who had had their appendix cut out.  
Er about the Clifty Horse Thief  
Detectives,  
Er what booze gang hed bin put to rout.

Couldn't tell who won et th' poultry  
show,  
I missed th' Gun Club's shootin' score.  
I fergot tu pay my telephone rent,  
En they cut me off, en it made me sore.

I missed Harry Hillabold's one-cent  
sale,  
I lost plum out on basket ball.  
I missed the Slabtown big fox drive,  
En doin's up et th' Legion hall.

Didn't know what show wuz on et  
the opera house.  
Couldn't tell jist whur to go  
to church.  
Er who hed bought a big fine car.  
Er whose fair name gossip hed  
tried to besmirch.

Never could hear who'd bin divorced,  
Er who'd got some oranges frum  
Florida state.  
Wuz hungry to hear some lodge news,  
Er who stole th' new sheriff's  
license plates.

I lost clean out, by jing, on  
curt news,  
Er what road th' state had  
recently rocked.  
I couldn't find out whose barn  
had been burned,  
Er why th' prosecutor said th'  
jury wuz "cocked."

I couldn't keep up on th' markets,  
Er what price tu ask fer a mule.  
I missed a crackin' big farm sale,  
Thinks I to myself: Old chap,  
you're a fool!

I've found out in the last two  
weeks,  
To keep right up on yer P's en Q's  
Et you'd better save on somethin'  
else  
Than your paper "The Greensburg  
Daily News."

So, this evening I hitched up old  
Charley  
An' says I, I'm goin tu town by  
heck,  
A purpose tu pay fer a year's sub-  
scription,  
Four dollars, I think it is - en  
here's yer check.

-Quite a brief for the Greensburg Daily News but a bit of  
nostalgia too. Roy C. Kanouse writing as "Gosh" was the  
local Abe Martin forty years ago.-ed.



THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Volume 2 - No. 50

Greensburg, Indiana

November 27, 1971

COMMITTEES

Arrangements

W. F. McCardle

Audit

Mrs. Dwight Williams  
Raymond Carr

Calling

Miss Gladys Aldrich  
Mrs. Bertha Alexander  
Mrs. C. W. Bartholomew  
Mrs. Stacy Brant  
Mrs. Frank Clark  
Mrs. George Greer  
Mrs. Frank Marlin  
Mrs. H. S. McKee  
Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
Mrs. Charles Osburn  
Mrs. Pansy Reed  
Mrs. Frank Russell  
Mrs. James Shannon  
Mrs. Delton Shazer  
Miss Victoria Tolverton

Decorations

Mr. & Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Walls

Display

John Doe

Nominations

John E. Parker  
Paul H. Huber

Program

William H. Hunter

\* \* \* \* \*

BE AN EARLY BIRD.' Save  
postage by paying your 1972  
membership fee at the dinner  
meeting. Annual dues are  
still one dollar!

OCCASION: Thirteenth Annual Dinner  
Meeting and Election  
of Officers.

SPEAKER: Dr. Thomas Barton

DATE: Saturday night, December  
11th, 1971 at 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Presbyterian Church,  
N.E. Corner Public Square  
Greensburg, Indiana.  
Entrance on Washington  
Street.

Dr. Barton, a geographer on the staff  
at Indiana University has chosen for  
his subject - DECATUR COUNTY AND ITS  
NEIGHBORS. He began his teaching  
career in Illinois in a one-room school  
with all eight grades. Today he is  
listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA.  
Geography is something more than the  
old familiar - "Maine-Augusta-on the  
Kennebec River"- bit as Dr. Barton  
will point out. There is a relation  
to our history. Plan to attend!

EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!!

\* \* \* \* \*

DINNER & RESERVATIONS

This year's dinner will be a  
SMORGASBORD - take your choice  
and all that you can eat for  
\$2.25- payable at the door.  
If you have not already been  
contacted please call Mrs. W. F.  
McCardle (662-5432) by December  
6th. - if you plan to attend  
the dinner.



## THIS AND THAT

**THE LAST MEETING-** Our annual fall field trip took us again to Oldenburg- this time through the Convent and Academy of the Sisters of St. Francis. After the welcome the group was conducted to the Chapel and from there through the remainder of the complex - the nuns in their respective departments served as narrators. We were told somewhat facetiously that if anyone were unable to negotiate the stairs or the elevators that Sister \_\_\_\_\_ would entertain because "she liked to talk". The hardy ones took to the stairs, others used the elevators. Those interested in nice things marveled at the furniture and furnishings and the art department drew more than its share of attention. It was two hours of sheer delight- our visit with these friendly personable nuns- so devoted to a life of charity and giving....Mr. Gilbert Munchel, Oldenburg's one-man Chamber of Commerce met us at the fire-house where we assembled. Afterward the officers and their wives served the traditional coffee and doughnuts, ending for us a perfect day. The weather man cooperated too with his October's bright blue weather".

\* \* \* \* \*

**THE ANCESTRAL CHARTS-** To date some forty good members have submitted charts for themselves and spouses. Those that have, we know derived a great deal of satisfaction from it. For those yet to come, we suggest the following-

- (1) Use the revised form.
- (2) Preferably type or print.
- (3) Fill in the form as best you can. Don't be embarrassed by your lack of knowledge of your ancestors. Your name and your parents names are genealogical information.
- (4) If your spouse is deceased, we suggest that you prepare a form for him.
- (5) DON'T PROSCRASTINATE!
- (6) Items of interest under "ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" are military records, public offices held, professions, occupations, exploits, place of interment, childrens names, etc.
- (7) For additional forms send SASE to:

THE DECATUR COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
323 NORTH BROADWAY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA 47240



# Farm For Sale

Finely Located Farm, Equipment, Stock and Crops,  
Near Culpeper, Va., For Sale by Owner.



RESIDENCE AND PART OF LAWN ON "GREENWOOD."

This farm consists of 236 acres, all cleared and cultivable (except small copse of timber for pasture shade), located in Piedmont Section of Virginia, on new macadam road, about one-half mile from corporation line of Culpeper, Va., county seat of historic Culpeper County, a good business town of 2,000 inhabitants, 67 miles south-west of Washington, D. C., on main line of Southern and Chesapeake & Ohio Railways; numerous trains daily. Soil light chocolate, easily cultivated, grows all kinds of grains, crops and alfalfa. Splendid dairy, general farming and stock, or country home for any gentleman. Land gently rolling. Residence situated in large lawn, native forest and other shade trees, set in blue grass. Rolling elevation, fine views of the Blue Ridge Mountains and surrounding country any direction. House 14 rooms, hot and cold water in bath room, pantry and kitchen sinks. Farm watered by springs and from Standpipe system for Culpeper, which is situated on farm near barns, for which lease a perpetual free use of water is granted this farm for all domestic uses. Piped to house, lawns, gardens, fields and lots where needed for watering stock or other purposes. Could also be electrically lighter from town plant. Tenant houses, poultry house and poultry fenced yards, garage for machine, carriage and buggy, smoke-house, ice-house, corn-cribs, cow and sheep barn and shed addition; horse and implement barn, hog houses, etc. Bearing orchards for farm use. Ten acres of Alfalfa, first cutting off; 31 acres wheat; 55 acres in corn; meadows, pastures in proper proportions. Completely fenced with American Woven Wire and locust and cedar posts into convenient sized fields (9), lots, etc., to contain any class of stock on any part of farm. New gates to all fields. Practically all fencing newly built, both interior and all dividing lines mainly of 52 and 55 inch American women wire with barb wire at top and bottom. Stock now on farm consists of pair heavy western mules, four head horses, 25 cattle, 21 sheep, 65 head pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs. All necessary farming implements, wagons, garden tools, shop tools, will also include stoves, kitchen range, etc. This place is reputed to be among the finest farms in Piedmont Virginia, for location, views, health, convenience to schools, churches, lodges, markets and nearness to Capital of Nation. Eat breakfast and supper at home and spend the day in Washington, D. C. Owner's reason for selling is I came from the West six years ago for health and selected this out of over 100 others viewed in Piedmont Virginia, and having recovered my health and owing to advancing age desire to retire from active farming. Place complete is listed with a few agents at \$30,000, but a quick, near cash sale can be made through owner at a figure that will save buyer the agents' commissions and other items. Place should be seen to be appreciated. Owner on premises will gladly furnish any further information desired, and is not priced above current values here. Make offer.

June, 1915.

W. R. PLEAK, Owner.  
Culpeper, Virginia.



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Finely Located Farm, Equipment, Stock and Crops, Near Culpeper, Va., For Sale by Owner.

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June, 1915

W. R. PLEAK, Owner  
Culpeper, Virginia



FARM FOR SALE- Will R. Ploak returned to Decatur County. His sons Carol and Wendall survive. Shown on the originale sale bill is a picture of their home in Virginia which they called "Greenwood"-a rambling one-story frame Colonial with two dormer windows. It was situated on an eminence in a grove of trees- something akin to their home located four miles West of Greensburg. We regret that we couldn't show a picture of "Greenwood"... The original sale bill is by courtesy of Frank Townsend- ed.

\* \* \* \* \*

ANYONE RELATED TO THE LAMONTS?- The Society has received a hard-bound copy of THE THOMAS LAMONTS IN AMERICA edited by and the gift of Corliss Lamont. The book is illustrated and is very readable.

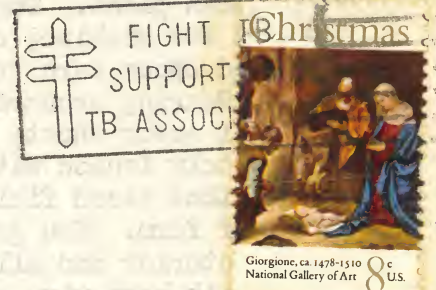
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THE DISPLAY- This is always an interesting feature of the dinner meeting. Since everybody has a hobby, members are urged to bring an example of their favorite avocation. Please include your name with your exhibit.

\* \* \* \* \*

LOST- The President's Gavel. Who has knowledge of it?

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF DECATUR COUNTY  
GREENSBURG, INDIANA



629-630 ✓  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale G. Myers  
220 East Walnut St.  
Greensburg, Ind. 47240

MERRY CHRISTMAS.!